

## Haitian leaders accept to reinstate Aristide

NEW YORK (AFP) — Haitian military leaders announced Friday that they have accepted a plan to reinstate ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on Oct. 30. A spokesman for General Raoul Cedras said that the plan proposed Thursday by international mediator Dante Caputo has acceptable exceptions for "some details that need to be ironed out." An agreement between the parties negotiating at Governors Island in New York could be concluded later Friday if those problems are resolved and Mr. Aristide accepts the plan, spokesman Serge Charles said. Mr. Caputo presented Mr. Aristide and Gen. Cedras with a comprehensive plan for restoring democracy in Haiti Thursday at the talks which began here Sunday. Sources close to the talks said the plan included an amnesty for military officials and a precise timetable for the reinstatement of Mr. Aristide. Haiti's first democratically elected president who was ousted in a September 1991 coup led by Gen. Cedras. The White House followed Thursday's proposal with an announcement it was resuming aid to Haiti to support the negotiations.

See earlier story on page 8

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية



## White House apologises to sacked employees

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The White House apologised Friday to five of the seven in-house travel employees sacked in May and said it would reprimand five people responsible for the firings. "I personally and professionally apologise," said White House Chief of Staff Thomas McLarty who presented a report Friday on the scandal which has been nicknamed "Travelgate." While Mr. McLarty chided those responsible for the firings, he said the report did find "financial mismanagement in the travel office." "There were no criminal violations involved here... these were mistakes of judgement," said Budget Director Leon Panetta, who helped Mr. McLarty compile the information. White House staff members had called in the Federal Bureau of Investigation following the audit to investigate charges. The thick report is the result of an internal White House investigation begun May 25 into the May 19 firing of seven employees of the White House travel office.

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## Rabin: Iran 5 years from nukes

PARIS (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Friday he believed Iran was at least five years and up to 15 years from attaining a nuclear weapons capability. On a visit to Paris, Mr. Rabin was asked about reports quoting Western intelligence officials as saying Tehran was trying to develop atomic arms and might have a nuclear weapon within two or three years. "I don't believe it can happen before five, seven or 15 years," he told the questioner. "I believe the whole process will take longer than you describe." Mr. Rabin said Tehran has signed contracts to buy two nuclear power plants each from Russia and China. Along with Syria, it had purchased Scud-C missiles from North Korea and the capability to produce them, he said.

## Clinton approves base closings

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton approved plans Friday to close or scale back 175 domestic U.S. military bases and tried to cushion the economic shock for defense-dependent communities by offering \$5 billion to help them recover. "Rapid redeployment and creation of new jobs in base closure communities are the top goals of the new initiative," the White House said in a statement. Mr. Clinton accepted an independent commission's recommendation that the Pentagon close 129 bases and realign 46 others. The list becomes final unless rejected by Congress within 45 working days.

## Expellee sneaks out of Lebanon camp

MARI AL ZOUHOOR, Lebanon (AFP) — A father of seven has sneaked out of this South Lebanon camp for some 400 Palestinian expellees, apparently to join his family in Jordan, the expellees' spokesman said Friday. Abdul Fattah Oweis, 50, a history professor at Hebron University in the occupied West Bank, fled two weeks ago leaving his belongings and a letter to fellow deportees saying he would not return. Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi told AFP, "I think he left the camp for family reasons. His family went to Jordan two months ago after being expelled by the Israeli authorities from the occupied Gaza Strip," Dr. Rantisi said. Mr. Oweis ran an open-air study centre for the exiles in the camp.

## Tirana demands end to Greek expulsions

TIRANA (R) — Albania protested to Greece Friday over its mass expulsion of Albanian migrant workers, demanding an end to the wave of deportations, now averaging 3,000 people a day. A Foreign Ministry statement said at least 53 deportees had been beaten and that Greek authorities were telling Albanians they could return if they "go to Tirana and overthrow the government." Greece, which began the expulsions a week ago, has vowed to deport every last illegal Albanian immigrant in retaliation for Albania's expulsion of a senior Greek cleric. Albania alleges the cleric was stirring up separatist fervor among ethnic Greeks in the south of the country. The Greek Public Order Ministry said about 20,000 Albanian migrant workers had been deported so far — the number of Albanian migrants in Greece may number up to 300,000. "We voice our profound indignation at all these acts which are in flagrant contravention of Article 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Freedoms to which Greece is a party," the Albanian statement said.

## 5 beheaded in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AFP) — Sword-wielding executioners Friday beheaded five people found guilty of drug trafficking, murder and rape and chopped off the right hand of four others accused of theft, the Saudi Interior Ministry said. The executions were carried out one day after the London-based human rights group, Amnesty International, denounced what it described as a four-fold surge in public executions in Saudi Arabia and criticised its human rights record.

# Tenth bilaterals end on gloomy note, but U.S. sees progress

Combined agency despatches

WASHINGTON — The 10th round of Middle East peace talks ended on a gloomy note, with Palestinians questioning the U.S. stand on Jerusalem and Israel faulting an American document aimed at identifying long-simmering differences.

But despite pessimistic assessments at the conclusion of the talks on Thursday, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher indicated the process could still go forward.

"The essence of being an intermediary or an honest broker is to present ideas which neither party may regard as wholly satisfactory but we hope they'll be stimulating and provocative and may help provide a middle ground," Mr. Christopher said, referring to the U.S. role as co-sponsor of the talks.

Mr. Christopher said he would consider a trip to the Middle East if it could be productive, and Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the peace talks, is headed for the region next week to maintain what little momentum these talks have generated.

A key point of contention is the status of Jerusalem.

The Palestinians failed to get the United States to publicly oppose the Israeli annexation of predominantly Arab East Jerusalem.

In an interview on Thursday with news agency reporters, Mr. Christopher said the question of Jerusalem was "a final status issue" — that is, an issue to be taken up only when peace negotiations are in their final stages after three years of Palestinian self-rule.

An informal American proposal to bridge the gaps on various issues (see page 2) displeased both Israelis and Palestinians.

"Israel is very displeased with the changes that appeared in the American proposal which was presented yesterday," said Elyakim Rubenstein, chief Israeli negotiator with the Palestinians.

"Our initial reaction here is not positive," said chief Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi after the talks concluded. "And we don't think that this document can serve as a basis for extended discussions."

Dr. Abdul Shafi was deeply concerned about postponing discussion of Jerusalem: "We are demanding (discussions of) at least one aspect of the Jerusalem issue and that is the question of the continued settlement process and we think that's the most urgent and immediate matter."

Determining the future of Jerusalem "has long been regarded and is still regarded as a final status issue. I think it needs to be recognised in those terms," said Mr. Christopher.

"We have given the parties, that is the Palestinian-Israeli track, some ideas. Not to our surprise those ideas have not been immediately accepted by either party," he said.

"The essence of being an intermediary or an honest broker is to present ideas which neither party may regard as wholly satisfactory but we hope they'll be stimulating and provocative and may help provide a middle ground," he added.

The details of the U.S. proposal were not disclosed, but sources close to the talks said it set down the broad outlines of a temporary autonomous authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israelis and Palestinians were unable to agree on a statement of principles on such an authority.

The Palestinian delegation, however, said it was willing to pursue its talks with the United States, which are due to continue next week when Mr. Ross visits the Middle East.

The U.S. administration took the criticism to their proposal in their stride, expressing no surprise.

A State Department official stressed: "You're dealing with a

## Jordan committed to joint Arab stand

WASHINGTON (Petra) — The Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in Washington has reiterated its continued support for a joint Arab stand vis-a-vis the achievement of a just and durable peace based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, Faysal Tarawneh, head of the Jordanian delegation, said Thursday.

Summing up the outcome of the 10th round of talks, which concluded Thursday without any progress, Dr. Tarawneh said the Jordanian delegation "expressed total solidarity with the other Arab parties to the negotiations."

The Jordanian delegation reiterated its adherence to its own proposals and stand in the ninth session during which Jordan and Israel created three working groups to deal with water, energy and environment, land and borders and economic and refugee matters, Dr. Tarawneh told a press conference attended by the heads of the Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian delegations to the peace negotiations.

In the 10th round, the Jordanian delegation emphasised the need for Israel to discuss a problem involving 90,000 Palestinian holders of Israeli permits who have been banned from returning to the occupied territories but it did not receive a reply in this regard from the Israeli side during the 10th round, he said.

In addition, the Jordanian delegation discussed topics related to the Kingdom's rights like water and land occupied by Israel in the 1967 war as well as family reunions, among the refugees and

ing chip for Israeli military men missing in action in Lebanon since 1982.

"The real murderer will be (Israeli Prime Minister) Yitzhak Rabin, if he doesn't respond to our demands," the Arabic-language leaflet said.

"We bold Rabin responsible for all the attacks and we promise you more operations and it will be soon," it added. The leaflet, circulated in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron, also asserted that the mission had "fulfilled a commitment to avenge the deaths" of two Hamas activists killed by Israeli forces in Hebron earlier this year.

In Thursday's assault, two Palestinian men boarded and then opened fire inside a crowded commuter bus, wounding three people, one of whom later died.

After a struggle between one gunman and the bus driver who also was wounded, the assailants fled a short distance on foot.

They commandeered a car driven by Mrs. Kadosh-Dayana who drove across town until stopped by gunfire from Israeli security forces at a roadblock.

Police said they were still investigating whether the soldiers or the gunmen killed Mrs. Kadosh-Dayana.

Police spokesman Avi Zeiba said Friday that "nobody knows exactly what happened."

On Thursday police said she was driving when the car approached the roadblock and that a man in the passenger seat shot at her legs

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# Majali: Jordan's policies unchanged

MUTA (J.T.) — Despite all the "siege, injustice and misunderstanding, Jordan continues to stand by the honourable Arabs" especially the Palestinians and Iraqis, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali has said.

At a graduating ceremony for Muta University students Thursday, Dr. Majali said Jordan had never "let down an Arab defending his right, honour and dignity nor had it accepted the division of Arab land."

He said that Jordan was saddened by the increased victimisation of Arabs and to see Arabs and non-Arabs instigate the enemies against the Arab Nation.

"Therefore, no one has the right to outbid us," Dr. Majali said.

Earlier Thursday, Dr. Majali received more than 100 political activists who charged that Jordan was shifting its policy towards Iraq.

The protesters, mostly Islamists, met with Dr. Majali at the Prime Ministry and handed him a statement detailing their opposition to the peace process and their condemnation of the American missile attack on Iraq last week.

The protesters, a coalition of 10 political parties, on Wednesday requested but were not granted permission to stage demonstrations in Amman and other cities.

In their statement they criticised the government for not



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Thursday meets with a group of parliamentarians and political activists who sought to register their protest over issuing a statement "denouncing the American action."

regarding peace in the region. He said Jordan was committed to the principles of land for peace.

Muslim Brotherhood deputy Hamman Said, who was one of those who met Dr. Majali, said after the meeting: "The prime minister denied (that there was) any change in policy towards Iraq and insisted that Jordan's stand was ultimately in Iraq's favour."

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# Hamas claims attack on bus

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Muslim fundamentalists circulated a leaflet Friday claiming responsibility for an attack on an Israeli commuter bus in which two women were killed. They also threatened more attacks.

Thursday's attack came as Middle East peace talks in Washington recessed without progress, after Jerusalem emerged as a key sticking point in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations (see separate story).

One bus victim, Russian immigrant Olga Chaikov, 42, mother of an 11-year-old girl, was buried after dying of her wounds Thursday night.

The other dead woman, Janet Kadosh-Dayana, 39, a mother of four whose car was commandeered by the assailants, was buried Thursday.

A two-page leaflet signed by the Izzedine Al Qassam Brigades, the military arm of the fundamentalist Hamas movement, said the gunmen's initial plan was to hijack the bus and force it to drive to the Lebanese border.

It said the men intended to threaten to blow up the bus with its 45 to 50 passengers unless Israel met demands to release about 100 Palestinian prisoners and detainees from Hamas and four other guerrilla factions.

They also intended to demand the release of Lebanese Muslim cleric, Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, the leaflet said. Sheikh Obeid was kidnapped from his home in South Lebanon by Israeli commandos in 1989 as a bargain-

ing chip for Israeli military men missing in action in Lebanon since 1982.

"The real murderer will be (Israeli Prime Minister) Yitzhak Rabin, if he doesn't respond to our demands," the Arabic-language leaflet said.

"We bold Rabin responsible for all the attacks and we promise you more operations and it will be soon," it added. The leaflet, circulated in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron, also asserted that the mission had "fulfilled a commitment to avenge the deaths" of two Hamas activists killed by Israeli forces in Hebron earlier this year.

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# Iraq wants dialogue despite U.S. attack

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A senior minister pledged that Iraq would not retaliate for a U.S. attack on Baghdad and insisted that his government wanted to normalise relations with Washington.

In the first comment to the West by an Iraqi leader since last Sunday's raid, which Iraq said killed six civilians, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz struck a conciliatory note.

"Iraq is not the enemy of the United States," he said in an interview with CNN Thursday.

"We might have differences, yes, but those differences could be solved in a civilised manner."

"We still suggest dialogue. We are ready to solve all the bilateral and the multilateral issues. We are ready for that."

Mr. Aziz said Iraq would not respond to the U.S. missile strike aimed at Baghdad's military intelligence headquarters in retaliation for an alleged Iraqi plot to kill former President George Bush.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has said he holds Mr. Bush personally responsible for the U.S.-led Gulf war which drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait after its 1990 invasion.

But Mr. Aziz dismissed allegations of an assassination plot, saying there was no credible evidence that Iraq was involved and adding that Iraq was not interested in killing any American.

"We would like to have a quiet peaceful relationship with the United States of America and the world at large," he said.

Baghdad newspapers published

a opinion poll on Thursday saying that 50 per cent of Iraqis surveyed said Iraq should be "patient and steadfast," in response to the U.S. attack.

But 30 per cent of the 502 people contacted by Iraq's Information Ministry said they would back Iraqi attacks on U.S. interests abroad.

Mr. Aziz said Iraq wanted to meet the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to discuss any issues blocking the lifting of crippling U.N. trade sanctions imposed after its occupation of Kuwait.

In the first significant open contact with the United Nations in months, Iraq is sending a delegation to New York to discuss the possibility of resuming oil sales, barred by the trade ban. (See pages 2 and 10).

U.S. Defence Department officials said Thursday Iraq's military forces had apparently relaxed a high state of alert that followed Sunday's missile attack on Baghdad.

"They were at a very high state of alert, and it appears from some of their movements that they have relaxed that," U.S. Navy Captain Michael Doubleday, a Pentagon spokesman, said.

But Cap. Doubleday added at the department's regular briefing that the U.S. aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt and five other Navy ships were now stationed in the Red Sea for any contingency involving Iraq.

Capt. Doubleday said some Iraqi anti-aircraft and other units had apparently returned to normal status.

# Blind cleric to surrender to U.S. authorities

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A hardline Islamic cleric, whose followers are accused of the bombing of the World Trade Centre, will surrender to authorities, his attorney said Friday.

"I'm making arrangements to do that now," attorney Barbara Nelson said. "Immigration wants him. He might as well surrender. There's no point in running away with it."

On Thursday the Justice Department reversed an earlier decision to let 55-year-old Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman remain free and ordered his arrest, according to federal law enforcement officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Agents continued to stake out his mosque in Brooklyn, waiting to arrest the Egyptian. They thought they had cornered him when a white-garbed man whose face was obscured has hustled into a van.

Two vehicles blocked the van's path and Federal Bureau of In-

vestigation (FBI) and Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) agents jumped out with shotguns and pistols raised, shouting "get out! get out!"

But when the man with his head down and wearing a red and white cap similar to the one worn by Sheikh Abdul Rahman looked up agents realised he was not the sheikh.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman will not be charged in connection with the Feb. 26 World Trade Centre bombing or the plot to carry out a series of bombings and assassinations in New York City, the sources said.

Instead the Justice Department said he would be arrested and his parole immigration status revoked. Sheikh Abdul Rahman was freed while he fights a deportation order issued in March.

The blind cleric has three times beaten Egyptian charges of provoking a president's assassination and plotting to topple the govern-

ment.

Even from the United States, he plays a role in Egypt's turmoil by acting as a "spiritual guide" to his followers fighting to replace President Hosni Mubarak's secular government with Islamic fundamental rule.

Calls for his arrest have intensified since the FBI said the participants in the foiled bombing and assassination plot had ties to him.

The plotters' targets had included placing bombs in heavily-travelled commuter two tunnels connecting New Jersey to New York City, the United Nations headquarters and assassinating the U.N. secretary general and a U.S. senator.

Nine men, including five Sudanese, have been arrested in the alleged plot, and several faced bail hearings Thursday.

One of the nine defendants, who the sheikh says acted as his interpreter as recently as last month, is accused of being the group's ringleader.

Two of the defendants charged

in connection with the bombing of the trade centre which were associated with the sheikh and others worshipped at the Al Salam Mosque where the cleric sometimes preaches.

Earlier Thursday, prosecutors disclosed in New York federal court hearing that accused plotters discussed placing a bomb on the George Washington Bridge, which links Manhattan with New Jersey.

Other landmarks identified earlier by authorities as targets included the Holland and Lincoln tunnels, also linking Manhattan and New Jersey, and the United Nations building.

Senator Alfonse D'Amato and state assemblyman Dov Hikind, both outspoken supporters of Israel, were alleged targets of assassination.

Portions of the conversations secretly taped by an informant were disclosed at a bail hearing Thursday for one of the defendants, Mohammad Saleh.



## U.S. draft paper seeks to narrow gaps, focus talks

WASHINGTON (USIA) — An "informal draft" working paper presented by the United States to the Israeli and Palestinian delegations to the Middle East peace talks is designed to help narrow gaps and focus the continuing discussions, a senior administration official closely following the talks said Thursday.

The talks recessed Thursday, with no date given for their resumption. Ambassador Dennis Ross, special coordinator for the Middle East negotiations, will lead a U.S. mission to the region beginning next week.

Briefing reporters at the State Department, the U.S. official said that after "countless hours of consultation" with the Israeli and Palestinian delegations, the United States "decided to come up with some ideas that would be designed principally to see if there was a way to narrow some of the gaps and provide a focus for continuing discussions."

These ideas were turned over to the parties as an "informal

draft," the official said. The United States views the draft as a basis on which to have discussion. "We do see it as giving the talks a logical focal point in terms of organizing and shaping them," he said.

Explaining further, the official said the draft paper takes into account the needs of the parties "while trying to protect some of the things that were most important to them."

Conceding that this approach may not satisfy either party, the official stressed that the paper "is not etched in stone" and "is subject to discussion." He said the United States "would like to get some reaction from the parties and (get them to) think about how to proceed."

The United States is "open to discussion on how to improve" the draft, the official said. It is, however, "incumbent on each side as they approach us to come up themselves with ideas and approaches that can be realistic and can work," he added.

The draft paper and upcoming visit to the region by Mr. Ross are part of a continuing process of creating a set of conditions and circumstances to lay the groundwork for a breakthrough in the talks sometime this year, the official said.

The official said the goals of Mr. Ross' trip to the region are "to follow up on the activities that we've been involved with in the last couple of weeks" and "to be thinking about, with the parties, what are the best ways to try to narrow the gaps that separate them."

The United States seeks to explore "what are the ways to begin to create the conditions and circumstances so that we can make real progress down the road," he said, adding that "there is clearly a value when you are at this kind of a stage of periodically engaging the leaders in the area."

"We want to begin to impress upon various leaderships our own sense where things are and also try to induce a sense of urgency

consistent with what we think is possible," he said.

"We are just not at a point where we are about to table formal proposals. There is a lot of hard work yet to be done. The gap between the parties conceptually and psychologically is still significant," he said.

However, the official pointed to some areas of optimism in the last session of talks. Speaking privately, the parties "found some of these discussions on the substance interesting," he said.

"One of our challenges right now is to take discussions that are from time to time interesting and make them meaningful... Informing has to be translated into problem solving," he said.

At the beginning of the Israeli-Palestinian track this month, the official said, the United States "saw a desire on the part of both sides to have a discussion on the possibility of a declaration of principles." He said both parties were "fairly eager to have us involved and asked for our help in this."

Reviewing the Israeli-Syrian track, the official said both parties engaged in discussion on security arrangements. He characterized this discussion as "fairly theoretical."

"I can't point to any specific progress in the talks," the official said. He noted, however, that both parties continued to probe "to see whether there was 'give' in certain positions on each side," he noted.

"I do think the fact that they had the kind of discussion they did in the atmosphere they did continues to reflect something in the belief of the value of the process," the official said.

The official reported that the Israeli delegation Thursday presented the Lebanese with a new paper which is "an effort on their part to reach out more to the Lebanese..."

The Israeli and Jordanian delegations engaged in discussion of the "functional areas they have set up" and "are fairly close to an agreement on banking," the official reported.



PRO-IRAQI PROTESTS: About 200 Indonesian anti-American posters while chanting Islamic slogans. Muslim students demonstrate in front of the U.S. embassy and later left the embassy peacefully (AFP photo)

missile attacks on Iraq. The students displayed

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Four former Syrian ministers released

PARIS (R) — Four former Syrian cabinet ministers have been released after spending 23 years in prison, a human rights group said Thursday. The Paris-based Committee for Defence of Democratic Liberties and Human Rights in Syria (CDLDHRS) named them as Mohammad Said Taleb, Abdul Hamid Muqdad, Hadiha Murad and Marwan Habash. It said they were freed last week together with Kamel Hussein, a former ambassador to France. Another Paris-based group, the Association for Defence of Human Rights in the Arab World (ADDHMA) said two Palestinians who belonged to the country's former leadership, Hassan Al Khatib and Youssef Al Bourj, were also released. Both groups welcomed the move but demanded that all political prisoners be freed. CDLDHRS said 12 people jailed 23 years ago were still being held at Damascus' Al Mezzeh prison. ADDHMA said eight people jailed 22 years ago were being held without trial, including former Foreign Minister Mohammad Achawi. Several communist leaders detained 11 to 13 years ago, were also being held without trial. Syrian President Hafez Al Assad pardoned 2,864 political prisoners when he was nominated for a fourth seven-year term in December 1991. He issued another pardon covering 600 political prisoners when he won elections in March.

## Israel to deport Italian who disrupted Knesset

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Thursday ordered the deportation of an Italian tourist who Wednesday leapt from the press gallery onto the floor of parliament saying he wanted to stop Israel from giving occupied land back to Arabs. A ministry statement named him as Marcello Dipaola. Airport sources said Dipaola, 30, was scheduled to leave for Rome on Friday morning.

## France-UAE to discuss military cooperation

ABU DHABI (AFP) — French Defence Minister Francois Leotard will pay his first visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) this week to discuss boosting military cooperation, the French embassy said. Mr. Leotard, who arrived on Saturday, will meet senior UAE officials during the two-day visit, his first since he took office in March. "France and the UAE maintain strong relations and it is natural that a new cabinet minister comes here to see the officials and discuss further cooperation," French Ambassador Bernard Poletti told AFP. France is the UAE's main arms supplier. The two countries agreed to bolster military cooperation during a visit to France in 1991 by UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan.

## Pilots ground Cyprus Airways

NICOSIA (R) — Striking pilots grounded Cyprus Airways for a day on Thursday and threatened an open-ended strike next week in a dispute over taxes. "If our problem is not resolved then we will go on strike as from midnight, July 9," a spokesman from the pilot's union told reporters. The next strike could be indefinite, he added. Forty flights and some 4,500 passengers were affected by Thursday's 24-hour walkout. The strike ended at midnight. The pilots say a government decision to tax meal and accommodation allowances will eat up a quarter of their income and want the airline to make up the difference.

## Iraq expels British, American journalists

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq expelled a British correspondent and an American journalist Thursday after objecting to their reporting. BBC correspondent Jeremy Bowen said he and a four-member television crew were ordered to leave after Iraqi authorities took exception to a World Service radio report on Wednesday. Correspondent Rob Reynolds of CNN also was ordered out, three days after Iraq objected to one of his reports. But authorities gave the U.S. network time to bring in a replacement before making him leave. "The Iraqis took exception to one of my reports, all of which I stand by, and ordered us to be at the border by 11 p.m. (1900 GMT) at the latest," Mr. Bowen said. The report contained what Iraqi authorities regarded as an insulting characterization of President Saddam Hussein. Information Ministry officials were not immediately available for comment on the expulsions.

## Morocco, Polisario to meet on referendum

GENEVA (R) — Officials from Morocco and the Polisario Front will meet later this month to negotiate the terms of a referendum in the disputed Western Sahara. U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said. He told a news conference the two sides would hold talks in the main Western Sahara town of Laayoun on July 15. The U.N.-sponsored referendum, on whether the former Spanish colony should be independent or be part of Morocco, is at least a year behind schedule because of a dispute over who is eligible to vote. The Polisario Front, which waged a 16-year guerrilla war for independence, wants a 1974 Spanish consensus to form the basis of the vote roll. Morocco, which controls most of the desert territory, has provided tens of thousands of other names of people it said were displaced by the war, names not accepted by Polisario. Dr. Ghali said neither side had yet fully accepted a U.N. compromise deal proposed earlier this year to solve the dispute. Diplomats say the deal involves the use of oral testimony and Spanish documents other than the census. But he said that if the U.N. Security Council decided, the compromise deal could be imposed without the two sides' approval.

## Bomb scare on Alitalia plane

LARNACA (R) — An Alitalia airliner diverted to Cyprus by a bomb threat, continued its flight to Tel Aviv after a search confirmed there was no explosive abroad, airport officials said Friday. Alitalia Flight 732 from Rome to Tel Aviv made an emergency landing at Larnaca airport just before 9 p.m. (1800 GMT) on Thursday after the airline received a bomb threat from an anonymous caller. Airport officials said bomb disposal experts had checked the McDonnell Douglas MD-82 and the suitcases of the 120 passengers and seven member crew and found nothing. They said the plane was continued its flight to Tel Aviv around 8.00 a.m. (0500 GMT).

## 11 Turkish troops killed in clashes

ANKARA (AFP) — Eleven Turkish troops were killed in the latest outbreak of clashes with Kurdish rebels in eastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Friday. The clashes also claimed the lives of an unspecified number of rebels from the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), the main Kurdish rebel group fighting central power in Ankara, the agency said. The fighting straddling the districts of Genc and Palu raged from Wednesday to late Thursday, prompting an operation by Turkish security forces to round up the attackers and determine how many rebels had died, the agency added. Ten killings brought to more than 100 the number of people slain in the past week in clashes between the two sides in the Anatolia region's Kurdish-majority eastern and southeastern provinces.

## 'My name is dead,' militant tells judge

CAIRO (R) — A Muslim militant facing the death penalty disrupted his trial in one of Egypt's controversial military courts, telling the judge he knew he was going to die. Court sources said Mohammad Ahmad Fergahli, one of 32 defendants charged with murder, armed robbery and conspiracy to overthrow the government, shouted religious slogans constantly during Thursday's sitting, heckling the court and prosecution lawyers. When military judge General Ali Kamal Hamza asked him what his name was, he replied: "My name is Dead." Judge Hamza had him removed for contempt of court.

## Efforts continue free oilman held in Iraq

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — U.S. officials do not believe the recent American missile attack on Baghdad will stall their efforts to free an Oklahoma oilman being held in an Iraqi jail, officials said Thursday. The Sunday attack on Iraqi intelligence headquarters "is certainly a concern to us, but we haven't changed the approach," said State Department spokeswoman Nydia Budig. Kenneth Beatty, head of exploration operations for the California-based Santa Fe Oil Company, was arrested April 25 for illegal entry while checking a well in northern Kuwait along the poorly marked border. "We understand from him that he was just lost and asked for directions, and the Iraqis took him into custody," Ms. Budig said.

## Albright cites terms for one-time Iraq oil sale

GENEVA (USIA) — The United States would not object to a one-time sale of oil by Iraq for humanitarian purposes, Ambassador Madeleine Albright, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, said Thursday.

But, she stressed in a news conference in Geneva, Iraq has "a long way to go" to become a legitimate member of the international community and insisted that the Baghdad regime would ultimately have to comply with all U.N. resolutions on Iraq, not just those regulating the sale of oil.

At a separate news conference, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said the U.N. and Iraq would begin negotiations concerning the sale of oil on July 7 in New York.

A U.N. Security Council plan adopted in 1991 following the Gulf war authorized Iraq to sell \$1,600 million worth of oil to pay for food and medicine, but Iraq protested that U.N. monitoring of the sale required under the plan would constitute a violation of its sovereignty.

Dr. Ghali said the decision to reopen the discussions on the sale of oil by Iraq originated at a meeting he had with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz in Geneva in June. He said he and Mr. Aziz had agreed that the oil

issue should come first, and that a successful resolution might lead to "a new political atmosphere which could help us to find solutions to the other disputes between Iraq and the U.N."

Ms. Albright pointed out that the sale was important because it would enable Iraq to provide humanitarian assistance to its own people. But she said the implementation of Security Council resolutions 706 and 712 allowing Iraq to sell oil would have to be followed by implementation of other U.N. resolutions on Iraq as well.

"They have to stop repressing their people, they have to arrange the boundary, they have to allow inspections to go forward," Ms. Albright said.

Asked why the United States had not informed the U.N. Security Council in advance of its decision to launch an air strike against the Iraqi intelligence ministry, Ms. Albright said Washington considered the strike a "unilateral action."

"President Clinton has said many, many times that his way of looking at our American position is that we will take action with other where we can, and alone when we must," Ms. Albright said. "The action against the intelligence ministry was one of those

where we felt that we had to take action unilaterally."

In Washington, a panel of experts said the United States should deal seriously with Iraqi threat to avenge the recent U.S. attack.

"I would not take lightly that threat of revenge," Laurie Mylroie, a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said during a Thursday forum sponsored by that organization.

Not only does Iraq retain the ability to threaten targets within and beyond the Middle East, but it has made good on previous threats, Ms. Mylroie pointed out. The issue that precipitated the most recent U.S. missile attack — evidence of an Iraqi plot to assassinate former President Bush — was itself fulfillment of a threat made during the final stages of the Gulf war, she asserted.

Michael Eisenstadt of the Washington Institute and Zalmay Khalilzad of the Rand Corporation joined Ms. Mylroie in an examination of Iraq's possible responses to the U.S. action. The options discussed included a renewed invasion of Kuwait; military action against all or part of the protected Kurdish enclave in the north; and attacks aimed at the United States and its allies.

Mr. Eisenstadt dismissed the possibility of a new Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as the kind of action that would prompt swift and decisive military retaliation from the Gulf war coalition. Less clear, however, is whether the United States and its allies would respond effectively to an Iraqi attack against the Kurds.

They applied for a special export licence, because under U.S. law — the 1992 Iran-Iraq Non-Proliferation Act — the Department of Commerce would have to deny export licences to any company seeking to do business with Iran.

Also, since the 1979 Iranian revolution, the United States has restricted the sale of dual-use technology to Iran.

Citing Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent remarks condemning Iran's heightened "terrorist" activities, Representative Charles Schumer (Democrat of New York) said: "President Clinton is considering a decision that will affect the prospect of whether Iran will survive the means to be a more greater threat to world security."

## Turkey recalls officials from Bern embassy

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey on Friday ordered three embassy workers in Bern allegedly involved in the shooting of a Kurdish demonstrator to return home, refusing a Swiss request for lifting of their diplomatic immunity.

A Foreign Ministry statement said Turkey did not accept that the three embassy members suspected of shooting at demonstrators could become subjects of a legal investigation.

Anatolia news agency reported that the three embassy personnel, including two security guards and a driver, were scheduled return home Friday.

The announcement came a few hours before the Swiss set deadline for the possible expulsion of the three Turks unless their diplomatic immunities were lifted.

Such a Turkish decision was expected after Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin's announcement Thursday that it was not legally possible to lift a diplomatic immunity under the Vienna Convention, which stipulates the international diplomatic rules.

The shooting has strained relations between the two governments.

## U.S. legislators campaign against proposed sale of jetliners to Tehran

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Members of Congress have called on the Clinton administration to halt a planned sale of U.S.-made commercial jets to Iran, saying it is time for the U.S. government to learn from its previous mistakes.

In a letter addressed to the president, more than 140 members of the House of Representatives state that "if we are to publicly brand Iran for its support of terrorist activity and proliferation of dangerous weapons, the United States must not sell these aircraft to Iran."

Releasing their letter to President Clinton at a news conference here, Thursday, Representative Peter Deutsch (Democrat of Florida) said he learned of the plan to sell the jets from a letter President Clinton wrote to Senator Jesse Helms (Republican of North Carolina) to notify the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the administration is contemplating changing the classification of Boeing 737s from their presently designated "joint-

military-civilian-use" to a "civilian-use" status, thereby making such a sale permissible.

Mr. Deutsch noted that within one day, he and other colleagues had gotten more than 140 other congressmen to sign a letter asking Mr. Clinton not to approve the jet sales to Iran.

Representative Jim Saxton (Republican of New Jersey) cautioned that the administration must not forget the lessons of Iran. "We were surprised by that country's development and eventual invasion of Kuwait because we were not paying attention to the technology... that was flowing to Iraq from around the world," he said.

Mr. Saxton said he opposes the sale of "dual-use" technology to Iran as a matter of security and as a matter of conscience.

"The United States should not be in the business of sharing its technology, craftsmanship, and engineering with the lead sponsor of world terrorism... Iran is not a friend," he stressed.

Iran contracted to purchase the

jets — 737s manufactured by Boeing using General Electric engines — in September 1992, and the U.S. manufacturers applied to the U.S. Department of Commerce for a licence to go ahead with the sale. Both companies have been hit hard by recession and recent military spending cuts.

They applied for a special export licence, because under U.S. law — the 1992 Iran-Iraq Non-Proliferation Act — the Department of Commerce would have to deny export licences to any company seeking to do business with Iran.

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## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

## PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ..... Les Aventures de l'Espece  
18:30 ..... Envoye Special  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Fenetre sur  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Super Bloopers  
21:00 ..... Perspective  
21:30 ..... Saturday variety show  
21:45 ..... News in English  
22:00 ..... Feature Film: "Alamo Bay"

## PRAYER TIMES

03:55 ..... Fajr  
05:29 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
12:30 ..... Dhuhur  
16:20 ..... Asr  
19:50 ..... Maghrib  
21:34 ..... Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 623785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627400  
Dr. In Salla Church Tel. 661757  
Terrace Church Tel. 623666  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623...

## Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 62526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 859932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675591

Min./Max. temp. 21/32

Apqba ..... 25 / 40

Deserts ..... 20 / 37

Jordan Valley ..... 23 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Apqba 42, Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Apqba 17 per cent.

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## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

Electric Power ..... 636381

RJ Information ..... 08-53201

Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 08-53200

IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272273

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital ..... (02)247100

AQAA: Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ..... 644281/6

Akheil Maternity, J. Amn ..... 842441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642465

Mallat, J. Amman ..... 636140

Palestine, Shmiesani ..... 664171/4

Shmiesani Hospital ..... 669131

University Hospital ..... 845645

Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali ..... 664127/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6

Al-Ahli, Al-Muhajreen ..... 777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/26

Army, Murka ..... 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital ..... 6224050

Amal Hospital ..... 674155

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)902660

Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)98732

Al Khura Modern Hospital ..... (01)90990

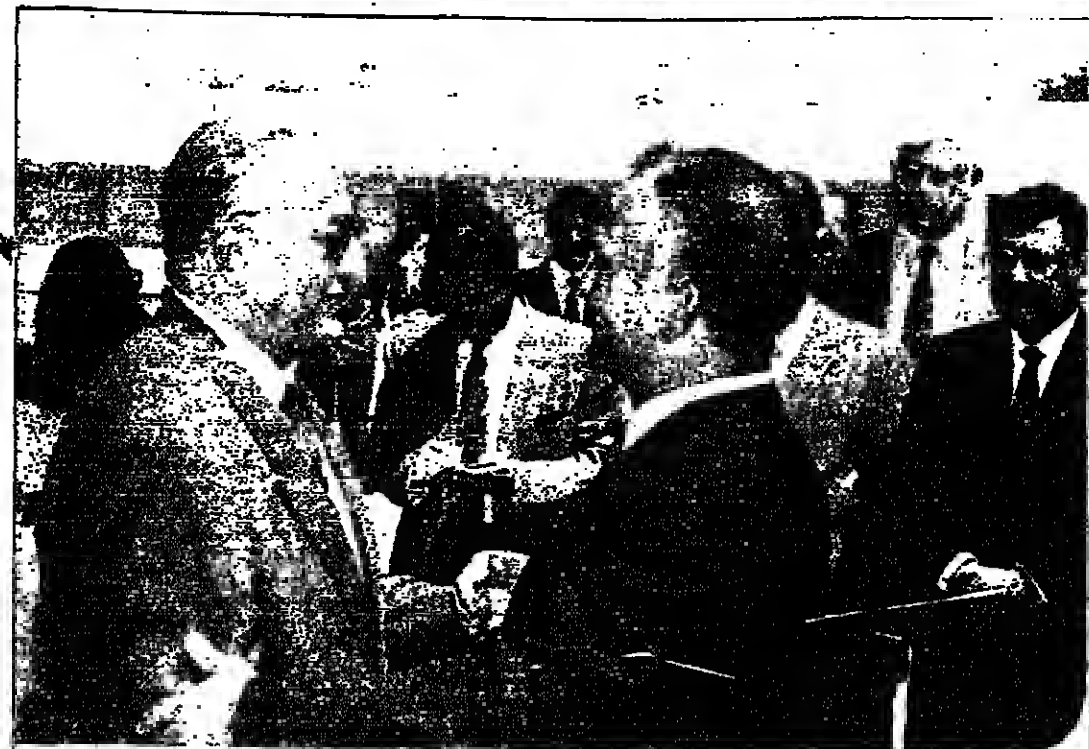
Food Control Centre ..... 637111

Rescue Police ..... 192, 821111, 637777

Civil Defence Department ..... 641111

Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341





**WORKING VISIT:** Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath are seen off Thursday at the airport by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali. The Crown Prince and Princess left for London on a several-day working visit to the United Kingdom. The Crown Prince received at his residence in London Friday morning Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. Prince Hassan and Mr. Hurd exchanged views on a wide range of

## Women's political arena focus of 1-day seminar

AMMAN (J.T.) — Programmes that might help women's unions overcome their current differences and get involved in the political arena, are among the topics to be reviewed at a one-day symposium Monday.

Organised by Al Urdun Al Jadid (New Jordan) Research Centre, the symposium on women and Jordanian political activities will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

In a press release issued Friday, the centre said representatives of various Jordanian political groups and women's unions will also address the following topics:

- Reasons behind the lack of desire among women to participate in political parties' activities.
- Reasons behind the failed attempts to fuse unity among women's unions and their movements, and means of ending differences.
- The women's quota — assigning seats for women in Parliament.
- Formal steps to be taken to enhance continued women's participation in public life in Jordan, as well as the role of related legislation.

According to the press release, working papers will focus on the prospects of women's participation in Jordan's parliamentary life and how political parties can help create an opportune climate for such development.

The papers will also tackle whether the political parties can accommodate women and the nature of problems that impede such moves, said the press release.

Also to be discussed, it said, is the prospect of lobbying the government to create a special ministry to deal with women's affairs, similar to those of other countries.

## EC official expected in Jordan for 4-day familiarisation visit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior official of the Commission of the European Community (EC) visits Jordan this week on what is described as familiarisation trip and bid to expand cooperation between the EC and the Kingdom.

Manuel Marin, vice president of the commission and commissioner for development cooperation, will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on EC aid to Jordan and review the implementation of a 126 million European Currency Unit (ECU) (\$157.5 million) assistance (loans and grants) agreement signed in 1991.

It will be Mr. Marin's first visit to the region after his reappointment in 1993 for a third term as the key EC executive of assistance programmes for development as well as humanitarian aid, noted Renato Batti, head of the EC delegation in Amman.

Mr. Marin, who arrives Sunday and leaves for Egypt Wednesday, will be accompanied by Eberhard Rhein, director of economic relations with the Mediterranean countries.

The EC officials are scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Planning Minister Ziad Fariz, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan, and Finance Minister Sami Gammoo.

Mr. Batti, briefing reporters Thursday on Mr. Marin's visit, said His Majesty King Hussein might receive the EC team but no schedule has been set.

The EC considers Jordan as a key player in the region and attaches importance to its relations with the Kingdom, said Mr. Batti, who took office in Amman three months ago succeeding Christian Falkowski.

He noted that Jordan and the EC signed the first cooperation and technical assistance protocols: the latest, running from 1991 to 1996, includes 80 million ECUs (\$100 million) in loans, 44 million ECUs (\$55 million) in outright grants, and two million ECUs (\$2.5 million) in capital-risk loans extended to the Industrial Development Bank.

The first protocol (1977-81) was worth 40 million ECUs, the second (1981-86) was worth 63 million and the third (1986-91) amounted to 100 million ECUs.

The collective assistance to Jordan of the European Commission, the executive arm of the 12-member EC, and of the individual members of the community under bilateral agreements make Europe the largest aid donor to the Kingdom.

Mr. Batti said the commission supported Jordan's economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and noted that the commission had extended 50 million ECUs (\$62.5 million) to help the programme.

The commission also appreciates the Kingdom's efforts to reschedule its foreign debts, he said. The commission does not have a direct role in the Kingdom's negotiations with the Paris Club of creditor governments, but its recommendations are seen as influential in the affair.

No major agreement or assistance programme is expected to be announced during Mr. Marin's visit this week. "The visit will offer Mr. Marin an opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of Jordan's economic and development," Mr. Batti said.

The EC delegate said Europe's preoccupation with post-cold war developments and conflicts in Eastern Europe had no impact on its aid programmes for other regions.

In fact, he said, there is a 9.5 per cent increase in the commission's 1994 budget allocations for the Mediterranean region, which include Jordan.

Mr. Marin, 44, is a Spaniard who was elected to parliament on a Socialist Party ticket in 1977 and retained the seat in 1979 and 1982.

He was very active in Spanish parliament and has served in the defence and foreign affairs committees, and played a key role in Spain's negotiations on membership in the EC in 1985.

On the European level, he served as vice-chairman of the Union of Socialist Parties of the European Community and was member of the consultative assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament/Spanish Cortes joint committee.

He is married and has two daughters.

## CDD, citizens put out stubborn fire in Al Koura

DEIR ABBE SAEED (Petra) — The Civil Defence Departments (CDD) of Al Koura district, the northern Mazar and Irbid Friday morning extinguished a forest fire near Kufri Kifya village in Al Koura district.

People from Kufri Kifya helped CDD personnel in putting out the fire which was first extinguished earlier Thursday afternoon, but started again later in the day in some steep areas of the forest.

The fire damaged large numbers of forest trees extending over an area of more than 20 dunums. Officials said the cause of the fire was still unknown.

The CDD later issued a call urging citizens to avoid lighting fires or tossing lit cigarettes in forest areas.

In the past month there have been more than 20 reported fires causing extensive damage to forests, olive orchards and planted fields.

CDD Director of Public Relations Major Nabil Qawar attributed the recent increase in the number of fires in various parts of the Kingdom to citizens' negligence.

This, he warned, could destroy Jordan's forests and natural wealth.

According to Maj. Qawar, the department last week issued regulations banning the use of flammable materials, lighting fires, and even smoking in forests. Violators of these regulations will have to pay JD 500 or be jailed up to three years in prison, or the two penalties together, he said.

## Queen attends NMC finale

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday evening attended the 1992-93 closing concert presented by 50 students of the National Music Conservatory (NMC) of Noor Al Hussein Foundation at Al Hassan Bin Talal Auditorium of the University of Jordan.

The concert included violin, guitar, piano, and chamber ensemble performances by NMC instructors as well as performances by NMC Elementary String Orchestra.

The NMF National Music Conservatory was established in 1986 to help enhance music education in Jordan.

It offers young Jordanians the opportunity to develop their musical talents through individual and group instruction on a range of string, woodwind and brass instruments and several

## Iraqi dinar rises slightly in market

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The embattled Iraqi dinar has risen a little in the local market following the announcement Tuesday that Baghdad and the U.N. had agreed to resume talks on a one-time Iraqi oil sale worth \$1.6 billion.

Some moneychangers have suspended dealings in the currency, awaiting further developments in the Iraq-U.N. talks on July 7, obviously hoping for better returns during the run-up to the talks.

The dinar was traded at 12 to 13 Jordanian fils Thursday, up from 10 to 11 fils at the beginning of the week.

"The increase was almost overnight after the first report came Tuesday that Iraq was reopening talks with the U.N. on oil sales," said a market source.

Furthermore, added the source, the freezing of all dealings in Iraqi dinars by some moneychangers had contributed to the rise since investors saw it as a clear sign of expectations that the currency could be gaining in value.

"Many speculators believe that some of the moneychangers have

"Inside" information and tend to act upon signals given by them," the source noted.

In Baghdad itself, the dinar has gained against the U.S. dollar, reports said. A dollar fetched 65 to 70 Iraqi dinars in the black market Thursday, compared with 85 to 90 dinars at the beginning of the week.

The fortunes of the Iraqi dinar are closely tied to signs of shifts in the international sanctions imposed against Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Hopes for high returns once the sanctions were lifted or eased led to massive losses by Jordanians in May when the Iraqi government cancelled the so-called 25-dinar "Swiss" notes currency printed in Britain prior to the Gulf crisis of 1990.

Surprisingly, the cancelled notes are still being traded in the local market. If anything, it went up by eight to 10 per cent last week, trading at five fils each, compared with 4.5 to 4.7 fils at the beginning of the week.

"There was a sudden demand for the currency," said another market source, "and sellers took advantage of the situation and boosted the price a little."

No moneychanger or source in the market could explain why the "sudden demand."

Banking circles have discounted theories that organised groups were transferring the cancelled notes to rebel-controlled northern Iraq with hopes that the U.N. may change the "Swiss" notes held by the Kurds living there under Western protection.

"Obviously someone is making a killing by floating rumours," said a senior official at a commercial bank. "Some people fall for them and lose in the bargain."

The comment reflected the reality in the market of Iraqi dinars.

Since very little authentic comment is available from Iraqi officials on the overall state of the economy except complaints of suffering under the sanctions, the field is open to those who claim access to information in Iraq to put out rumours and seek benefits out of the situation, the banking official noted.

Other market sources said a major part of the cancelled "Swiss" notes had disappeared from the local market and that this indicated that some people might have actually transferred the currency to northern Iraq. Many others are hanging on to their holdings, they said.

## JNRCS chief pledges financial help to branches

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Executive Committee of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Friday met with heads of its administrative committees and branches to discuss financial demands and means of supporting its future projects.

JNRCS President Mohammad Al Hadid pledged to pay the rents of the branches' premises as well as the costs of their services and charity projects.

Dr. Hadid said a related announcement would be made at a ceremony on July 20 held to honour former JNRCS president Ahmad Abu Qoura.

He said funds to support the activities of the society's branches were contributed by the International League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Dr. Hadid urged heads of the JNRCS branches to plan for development projects that would achieve self-sufficiency for the branches and enable them to finance their charity and humanitarian projects.

On Thursday, Dr. Hadid visited the Bosnian families hosted by Jordan at Umm Teena School in Jabal Jofeh.

He expressed the JNRCS's readiness to host four of the



Mohammad Al Hadid

Bosnian youth in the International Youth Camp organised by the society in Amman between Aug. 15-21.

He also ordered speedy assistance to more than 150 Bosnian children staying at the permanent shelter, run by the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation. The assistance would include clothes and sweets, he said.

The JNRCS has presented large quantities of food supplies to the 420 Bosnian refugees since they started arriving in Amman June 18.

## 15 journalists to take JPA to court

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Some 15 journalists intend to contest in court the recent decisions of the Jordanian Press Association (JPA) to revise and update their membership list. They will also contest the legality of the present JPA Council and the JPA Law of 1983.

"What happened was a massacre," Jordanian writer Salah Shboul told the Jordan Times. "What profit did the council reach by dismissing several professional colleagues?"

The JPA council took decisions on May 4 to annul the membership of about 30 journalists, transfer the files of another 6 to the status of non-practising journalists, and demanded that five others rectify their situation to be full-time journalists and resign from their other jobs if they wish to maintain their profession as journalists.

Some 121 journalists signed a memorandum on May 18 and took a decision to reclassify about 25 journalists to the status of non-practising journalists, "thus ignoring the memo sent earlier and refraining from discussing the retirement law," Mr. Shboul said.

Suleiman Al Quda, JPA's president, told the Jordan Times that around 25 journalists reversed their decisions of signing the May 15 memo.

"They thought it was a question of amending the retirement law and not annulling it," Mr. Quda said.

Mr. Shboul maintained that some pressure was exerted on these journalists to rescind their decisions.

One day after the JPA meeting (May 19), another memo was signed by 59 journalists, in which they protested these decisions describing them as "selective and reflecting a double standard policy."

The memo also reiterated the earlier protest of rectifying the retirement law and demanded the council annul all decisions taken in its previous meetings.

"No reaction was forwarded until now," Mr. Shboul said. "The final decision now rests with the court and not the council."

According to Mr. Shboul, there are another 75 journalists who should also be dismissed from JPA membership since they fall in the same category as the dismissed journalists.

"If they want to apply the law, they should not be selective," Mr. Shboul said.

According to Mr. Shboul, these journalists lack one or two of the conditions stipulated by the law to be qualified for or maintain their membership, yet they were not dismissed along with the others. For example, some of them, he said, work in other fields; also, contrary to JPA's

regulations, one member is enrolled in two associations and another did not complete the required training period.

These accusations were refuted by Mr. Quda, who said that the JPA was not selective or biased when revising and updating its membership list.

"JPA's decision applied the same criteria to all members," Mr. Quda said. "What many describe as selective is in reality 'human'."

Mr. Quda explained that the JPA's decision were not arbitrary, and the exceptions the JPA made regarding some journalists were based on humanitarian considerations.

He said that the association is fully aware of the situation of most journalists who are unable to meet their needs on the basic salaries they receive.

"When it comes to depriving someone of his/her means of livelihood, then decisions have to be stopped," he said.

As to the timing, Mr. Quda said that there is no specific reason for taking the decision right now.

"This should have happened a long time ago," he said. "The present council is determined to rectify the situation as much as possible, not only regarding the membership list but also upgrading the journalists' status."

Mr. Quda's justifications did not apparently appeal to Mr. Shboul who was determined to pursue in court what he sees as an unfair and selective policy.

## Madaba cleans up in preservation drive

MADABA (Petra) — Madaba spruced up its environs in a campaign organised by the National Committee for the Conservation of Madaba's Heritage (NCCMH) and Madaba Municipality and several city centres. The campaign aimed at preserving archaeological sites in the city and spreading awareness about them among the public.

It included cleaning city squares, archaeological sites, the antiquities museum and painting street pavements leading to these places.

Citizens of all ages participated in the clean-up.

Committee President Shafiq Al Zawaidh said the NCCMH, which was established in 1991, aims to preserve archaeological sites and improve the touristic image of Madaba through cleanliness campaigns.

Last year, the NCCMH cooperated with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in search of the Roman road in the city and appropriated some land to help in uncovering the street, Mr. Zawaidh said.

He said the committee contributed JD 20,000 to the JD 400,000 project.

The society, he said, has also prepared a guide book on Madaba's archaeological sites.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Paintings by Salem Al Dabbagh, Himat Ali and Karim Rassean at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by 26 Jordanian artists at Eshebeia Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by plastic artist Abeer Al Khatib at Alfa Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Noelle Shawwa at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### CONCERT

- ★ Concert by American violinist Marianne Cote and Syrian pianist Maria Bitri at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8 p.m.

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## Canadians, Jordanians 'green' a bit of Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In a joyous atmosphere filled with Arabic music amid a forest on the outskirts of Amman, Canadian nationals in Jordan celebrated their national day by planting trees.

On Thursday evening, marking the first of July, Canadians went picnicking at the Yajuz Nursery site, planting trees and singing

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**from the Honorary Consulate of the Sri Lankan Socialist Democratic Republic in Amman**

The consulate advises all Jordanian citizens and other citizens living in Jordan who employ Sri Lankan house maids and wish to send them back home for temporary or permanent reasons that they ought to get clearance from the Public Security Department (PSD), Residency and Borders Division in Abdali, Amman, so as to get permission for the maid before making the trip to the airport. This procedure should be followed in order to save the maids' trouble or inconvenience which they might face before departure at the airport.

Procedures to be followed in this case are:

- 1- The sponsor of the maid should call at the PSD's Borders and Residency Division to settle any outstanding issue or payment so that the maid can be allowed to leave. This clearance will appear on the maid's passport.
- 2- In case the maid has a valid annual residency permit but is taking a leave, after which she is to return, the sponsor should seek advice from the Borders and Residency Division so that arrangements can be made in this respect.

Approval will appear on the maid's passport. Should the sponsor fail to follow such a procedure, the maid will not be allowed to leave the country and will be returned and asked to acquire the necessary clearance for departure.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1973

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Jordan Times advertising department.

## Putting horse and the cart in right places

U.S. SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher's impending visit to the Middle East to push peace process cannot be expected to succeed if Washington maintains that both sides of the fence are equally responsible for the current stalemate in the bilateral peace talks. The Arab side, including the Palestinians, has already made several concessions in order to breathe new life into the peace negotiations. There is really not much more that the Arab delegations can do to resurrect the peace process. Mr. Christopher's attention therefore must be directed at Israel where the Rabin government has yet to come into grips with the fundamentals of the peace process by recognising fully the land-for-peace formula and begin to shape its negotiating posture on that basis. True, the Rabin government has rhetorically accepted the application of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 to all the occupied Arab territories including the West Bank but has not budged on translating this position to reality. The Palestinians are right in demanding assurances that there will be an effective Israeli withdrawal from their territories at the end of the day. The much-talked-about Palestinian right to self-determination cannot be realised as long as the contemplated Israeli withdrawal is either partial or has many strings attached. Whether Mr. Christopher will exercise the promised U.S. role as a forceful partner in the peace process or not would surely determine the outcome of his visit to the capitals of the parties to the bilateral peace discussions. The U.S. can still salvage the peace talks by calling on Israel to become clearer on its interpretation of 242 and 338. Otherwise there is no reason or justification to hold the next round of peace negotiations. After the high expectations initially generated by the last two cycles of peace talks have been dashed, Washington, the prime sponsor of the two-years-old peace process, has to comprehend that the region cannot afford another failed round of peace efforts. This mission could be accomplished if the U.S. itself becomes more coherent itself on the framework of the peace process. Thus far, the Clinton Administration, as indeed the previous administrations in Washington, has kept aloof from pronouncing themselves on the full importance of the application of Resolution 242. The issue of Jerusalem which Israel refuses to discuss outright has to be addressed within the framework of 242. This is where Washington can speak its piece by telling Israel that the Holy City falls within the purview of 242. By so elucidating its position on the various topics that impede progress in the Palestinian-Israeli track or on the Israeli-Syrian track, Washington can play the role that it gave itself in the first place.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE TENTH round of Arab-Israeli peace talks ended in failure, like the nine previous sessions, largely due to Israel's intransigence and passive attitude on the part of the United States Administration, said Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily. All the promises and pledges given to the Arabs by the Clinton administration went up in thin air as the Arab parties struggled for the past two weeks to arrive at an acceptable formula with the Israeli side, said the daily. The United States had pledged to play the role of full partner and help the Palestinians to at least acquire autonomous rule prior to determining their final destiny, but it failed to take any positive stand during the negotiations, as it did before, charged the daily. In light of this disappointing result, one can only recall King Hussein's warnings that this opportunity for making peace in the region ought not to be missed against the cycle of violence should resume with unpredictable consequences, continued the daily. The paper said the U.S. administration, along with the Israeli government, is to be held solely responsible for the failure of the talks because it failed to take steps aimed at implementing U.N. resolutions that call for the exchange of land for peace. Unless a drastic change is made in the U.S.-Israeli position, warned the paper, the 11th round is bound to meet the same fate.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily commented on the outcome of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit, which ended in Cairo, and said that the African leaders voiced total support for the rights of the Palestinians and condemned Israel's repressive measures against them. Ahmad Al Misch said that the European countries, many of whom back the African stand, are bound to support the recommendations and the resolutions that were passed by the OAU summit in Cairo, calling on the United States to resume its dialogue with the PLO and to play a more meaningful role in helping the Arab and the Israeli sides to reach peace. The writer said that there is need now for the Arab countries, led by the Arab League, to seek a summit for the Arab world, to discuss the OAU resolutions and to seek a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict by urging the United States and Europe to shoulder their responsibilities in this regard.

## West Bank road plans leave nothing to negotiate

By Aisling Byrne

The director-general of the Israeli ministry of construction and housing, Arye Mizrahi, explains that Israel must plan ahead for roads made necessary by political changes. "We must move fast," he warns, "otherwise events will catch us unprepared." Speed and integration are the key words. Israeli authorities are announcing plans for the development of extensive regional road systems: Road Plan 50, linking Jericho with Lod airport via various settlements; Hebron with Gaza via Ashdod; the West Bank with the Gaza Strip via Beersheba; the North-South Highway No. 6, Palestinian planners and politicians warn that if these plans go ahead, there will be nothing left to negotiate.

While the area of land offered for control by the Palestinian interim self-government is already only 4-6 per cent of the total territories occupied in 1967, itself only 21 per cent of Mandated Palestine, control over planning and construction of roads and settlements on this land has already been granted to officials from the Israeli government and the World Zionist Organisation. Leading up to interim self-government and beyond, this renders negotiation difficult, if not impossible. Israeli journalist Michal Schwartz explains that the consequences "make a political solution between Israel and a future Palestinian state impossible."

Mr. Mizrahi explained to the Jerusalem Post last week that funding for the road network would be drawn largely from loans guaranteed by the U.S. government, as well as some Israeli state funds: \$450m this year, rising to \$1.5bn next year. There seemed to be some confusion when U.S. officials requested assurances that no U.S. funds would be used for investment in the occupied territories. Official Israeli responses varied from a statement by the housing and construction ministry that it does not deal with funding sources, to a statement from the finance ministry explaining that "Mizrahi does not know what he is talking about," and a denial by a spokesman from Mr. Rabin's office because "Israel does not have any plans to build new roads in the territories — not from its own budget or from any other financial source."

### Settlement continues apace

Settlement building has not stopped. With the implementation of Mr. Sharon's Seven Stars Plan, Mr. Sharon himself explains that, "irrespective of the kind of settlement that may be reached with the Palestinians in

the future, this plan will create irreversible facts when the settlements of Judea and Samaria and those inside Israel are inextricably linked to each other". For example, Eli, a "political" not "security" settlement on the Ramallah-Nablus highway, initially sat on one hilltop. It now straddles six. Mr. Rabin's commitment to a settlement freeze does not amount to much any more. Not that it needs to. The U.S. position on settlement building in the occupied territories has evolved from "illegal" during the Carter administration, to Reagan's "obstacle to peace" to a current policy that requires nothing more than "keeping the U.S. informed".

As settlement continues, so does the planning and construction of an infrastructure to serve the settlements, particularly the new road network. Policy towards the Palestinian population is to exclude it, to limit its development and expansion as far as possible and to divide and separate Arab-populated areas

applicable to other road plans: "the evident purpose of the proposed main road system is to link all parts of the West Bank to the Israeli road system and thereby to integrate the West Bank and Israel physically and economically."

Palestinian academic Ghassan Al Khatib has accused Israeli authorities of saying one thing at the negotiating table whilst carrying out the opposite on the ground. According to Mr. Khatib, the regional road plans for the West Bank only serve to link Israeli settlements in the occupied territories with Israel proper at the expense of Palestinian villages and towns. Palestinian cartographer Khalil Tufakji claims that the aim of the authorities is to restrict the expansion of Palestinian areas, to link the Israeli settlements together and to create new facts on the ground before reaching a peace settlement. Mr. Tufakji warns that a new geographical situation is being imposed on the Palestinian delegation, "manifested by can-

for which they are intended — i.e. mostly settlers and military vehicles — without greatly contributing to easing the pattern of circulation within the (Palestinian) towns." Mr. Coon notes that "local" roads always avoid Palestinian villages and are situated so as to enable settlers to keep a watchful eye. Although Palestinians do have access to these roads, the clear aim is to serve the Jewish settlements and provide further stimulus for settlement.

Particularly damaging is the extraordinary width of the proposed right-of-way — between 40-120 metres — as opposed to the current 10 metres. Anthony Coon warns that even with "local" roads, this 3 kilometres "corridor of uncertainty" could affect over half the total area of the West Bank, destroying buildings and land with a total value of \$39m at 1984 prices. A four-lane motorway only requires 60 metres. A published plan of the Ramallah-Nablus road indicates that land either side of the road, the right-of-way width, is to be expropriated; existing uses will have to cease and buildings will be destroyed.

Palestinians were neither consulted nor warned about the plans. The Israeli High Court considered two petitions against them. Both were unsuccessful. The court ruled that the plans should stand because they benefit the "local" population — providing a fast link between "settlements", facilitating travel to work in Israel, reportedly serving nine Palestinian towns and catering for the population increase of the previous 13 years. In fact, notes Anthony Coon, the population increase of 27 per cent since 1967 is now to be served with a road network 113 per cent larger. A single delayed hearing was set to hear the 1,300 Palestinian objections. It was to be held in September 1990; there was no agenda, no time for questions and it dealt mainly with preliminary legal points. The decision, promised within six weeks, was issued earlier this year; it was negative. Once again, development policies are justified by the "benefits" they provide to the "local population".

Stretching 200km from the Lebanese border in the north to the Negev in the south, Highway No. 6 is dubbed the Trans-Israel Highway. Once constructed, this road will change the demographic nature of the region, in effect, implementing *de facto* annexation of parts of the West Bank. Originally planned in the 1970s, the road was to be built entirely within the Green Line. In 1990, Housing Minister Ariel Sharon revived and modified the plan, using it as the backbone to his "Seven Stars Settlement Plan" to

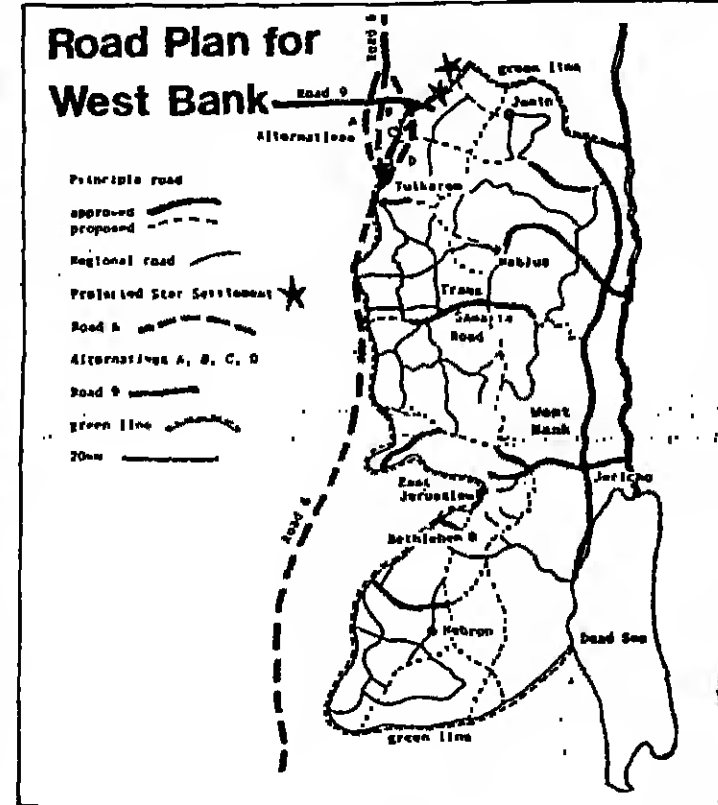
effectively eradicate the Green Line. With construction starting in 1995-96, the road will turn the coastal plain into a network of freeways. It is, explains the head of the Israeli Administration for Public Works, "the most pressing national goal of the decade". As current plans stand, Highway No. 6 will pass through Arab villages both in Israel and inside the West Bank, confiscating land as it passes and destroying the economic bases of the villages, their agricultural production.

### Moving the Green Line eastwards

At a cost of \$2bn, Highway No. 6 amounts to an attempt to move the Green Line eastwards, facilitating the creation of a Jewish majority in those areas with a current Arab majority, both in Israel and the West Bank. A 15km stretch of it will pass through the West Bank from Tulkarm heading north; and although 250 acres are to be confiscated in the Tulkarm area for a large intersection, at the time of publication not only bad the affected Palestinian landowners and residents not been notified of the plan directly, but explained a lawyer for the land department of the Arab Lawyers Association, "since most of the residents in this area make their living from the land, it will harm the local Palestinian economy". Construction of the Trans-Israel Highway, Highway No. 9, will mean the expropriation of a further 250 acres of land owned by hundreds of Palestinian families both inside the Green Line

and in the West Bank. The councils of the two villages most affected by this road have said that the loss of what is their best agricultural land will mean a decrease in their daily agricultural production of 1,000 tonnes and will destroy their plan to build an industrial zone. The councils are determined to challenge the approved plan and suggest alternatives; they have set up a committee and are petitioning Knesset members, as well as the ministries of agriculture, housing, finance and the interior. Past experience is not in their favour. Palestinian residents affected by Road Plan 50 in the West Bank began their court case in 1984. In March this year they received the reply to their objections; it was negative.

The structural annexation of the occupied territories thus continues at an ever increasing pace. Palestinian land is continually confiscated for the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Since the start of the peace negotiations in Madrid in October 1991, construction within existing settlements has increased by 40 per cent. Raja Shehadeh has issued a stark warning. Road Plan 50, and other regional road plans, are undermining the purpose of negotiation; if these policies continue, there will be nothing to negotiate. "If we accept the current status quo and we do not try to stop these changes, then we will be blowing away all possibilities for peace since these plans contradict the idea behind the negotiations" — Middle East International.



### THE WEEK IN PRINT

## Tenth round of talks at loggerheads; attack on Iraq should not go with impunity — press

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The local press last week gave prominence to the failed 10th round of Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington. The United States missile attack on Baghdad and a number of domestic affairs.

"Failure for the 10th time" was the title of an editorial in Al Dustour daily Friday, which said that the failure of the talks this time shows that there are chronic differences which are bound to perpetuate failures in any coming round of talks.

Actually, no one was optimistic that the 10th round would yield a fruitful result way before the talks started in the American capital, said the daily. But, it said, it should be noted that the continual failures are bound to deepen the feelings of despair and disappointment and give way to further acts of violence.

Now that the negotiations have proved fruitless, the U.S. should intervene to ensure the continuation of the peace process, said Mazen Hamad in Al Dustour daily.

Only through this intervention can the Arabs and the Israelis reach a formula, and only through the influence of the United States can the Middle East enjoy stability, because it is the only party that can direct Israel's policy in the region, said the writer.

This view was echoed by Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily which said that in his coming tour of the region, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher should reach agreement with the Arabs and Israel on a formula for the continuation of the peace negotiations and on the projected Palestinian autonomy rule. Otherwise, it said, there can be little prospects for an 11th round.

The paper said that the U.S. secretary now faces the problem of overcoming the present deadlock which resulted from Israel's intransigent position and the U.S. failure to live up to expectations in the tenth round.

There is no doubt that during his coming shuttle diplomacy in the region Mr. Christopher would exercise pressure on the Arab parties, rather than Israel, in order that they exercise their own pressure on the Palestinians to accept the Israeli formula of an autonomy rule, said Taher Al Udwai, a columnist in Al Dustour daily.

The writer said he was confident Washington, which failed to get further concessions from the Palestinians, would also fail to pressure the Arab countries into forcing the Palestinians to accept a sellout of their rights, especially of the holy city of Jerusalem.

A columnist in Al Ra'i said that the Arabs should realise the fact that the Jewish state will never allow them to set up an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil.

Ghazi Zureiqi said that Israel has brought into occupied Palestine thousands of Jewish immigrants and created hundreds of settlements on Arab land, not for the sake of allowing the Arabs to create their own state and threaten the Jews' future. He said Mr. Rabin and all the other Zionist leaders have been stating that the whole of Palestine is Israel's land that cannot be given up to the Arabs. The Arabs, he said, should realise that the struggle with the Israelis is for survival and that Israel has been created as a base for the western nations to maintain their aggression on

Arab land and domination over its natural wealth.

The latest American missile attack on Baghdad was extensively discussed by editorials and columns in the Jordanian press in the past week.

The latest attack on Baghdad was not to revenge the alleged conspiracy by Iraqi intelligence on the life of the former U.S. president, but rather an attempt on the life of the Iraqi president, said Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour.

The writer said that the United States and its western allies should realise that getting rid of Saddam Hussein is not an easy matter, because he is the kind of man who loves to continue the struggle in defence of his nation's interests, even if his country is attacked with nuclear weapons.

In a bitter attack on Washington for launching its missile raid on Baghdad, Mona Shuqair, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the killing of innocent civilians by a superpower is something disgusting and should be condemned worldwide.

The United States, which brags about its concern over human rights, is punishing innocent people not responsible for the actions of their leadership, said the writer.

There is no doubt that Mr. Clinton was trying to improve his image at home by directing the American public's attention to "victories" abroad, said the writer.

The American missile attack on Baghdad cannot be justified by any standard, said Sawt Al Shaab daily. Iraq did not kill George Bush and has not attacked the United States for it to justify the killing of inno-

cent Iraqi children and women, said the daily. The attack should be condemned as a flagrant violation of all international laws and human rights, it added.

For Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, the American attack was an aggression directed against the whole Arab Nation and not Iraq alone.

The writer said that the attack proved that the United States continues to harbour hostile feelings against the people, rather than the leadership, of Iraq which is totally committed to and indeed carried out all U.N. resolutions.

There is no doubt, said the writer, that the divisions plaguing the Arab World have encouraged the United States to pursue its present aggressive policies against the Arab people.

There is no doubt that Mr. Clinton launched the attack on Baghdad in order to prove to his people that he is not a hesitant president, as many Americans believe, said Tariq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily.

No one can believe that the attack came upon the directives of the Kuwaiti court, which has been trying people allegedly involved in a plot against the former U.S. president, said the writer. The attack cannot and should not pass without some form of retaliatory act on the part of the Iraqi leadership, because the aggression was an insult to the whole Arab Nation, said the writer.

It is painful indeed to learn that the missiles that hit Baghdad and killed women and children were fired from Arab lands and waters, said Yousef

Mahmoud, a guest columnist in Al Ra'i daily.

The writer said that while the Arab regimes are indifferent to the death of innocent people, one should wonder what is happening with the Arab and Muslim masses. If the Arab regimes condone the attack, why don't the Arab masses protest to show their disgust and condemnation of this crime? he asked.

Now that the United States has breached the ceasefire reached in the aftermath of the Gulf war, the Iraqi leadership should consider itself free to act in self-defence, said Abdul Rahim Omar.

The columnist, who writes for Al Ra'i, said that the United States crime against the people of Iraq should not go unpunished, because it is the right of every human being to seek justice and defend himself in the face of aggression.

Husni Ayesah, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the official information and media in the United States is continually pressured by the Clinton administration to spread lies among the American public about the facts in the Middle East and the Gulf.

The writer said that the American people are the victim of the American official policy which tries to hide facts and distort events. One is really surprised to realise that the Americans tend to support the oppressed people of Iraq and Palestine once they realise the facts on the ground, said the writer.

What is the use of being great if the might at one's disposal is being exploited for the destruction of mankind? asked Dr. Fahd Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i.

The United States has a long history of crimes and its hands are smeared with the blood of innocent people around the world, he said. In its latest aggression on the children and women of Baghdad, said the writer, the United States did not even need to get the approval and the blessing of the Arab League, as it did before in the devastating war on Iraq.

Mohammad Subeichi, a columnist in Al Dustour, tackled the question of unemployment noting that the Jordanian community colleges and universities continually graduate people who find themselves unable to make a living.

The writer said that the country is in need of a national strategy that links poverty, crime and unemployment to the education process and the labour market needs.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab demands that the government investigate the reason behind the disappearance of locally made cigarettes from the shops. Ahmad Dabbas said he did not support smoking, but the disappearance of cigarettes from the shelves of stores must have come as a result of merchants' underhand dealings and manipulations. Some merchants buy large quantities of cigarettes, which they store to sell later at higher prices, charged the writer.

Salameh Ekour said in Sawt Al Shaab that the recent announcement of a national strategy on Jordanian women was a major accomplishment. He said that the strategy was bound to encourage women to get involved in economic and social development and open the way for their participation in political affairs.















# Bosnia's Serb and Croat forces slice Muslim salient

VITEZ, Bosnia (R) — Serb and Croat forces have encircled the Muslim-held town of Maglaj and overrun nearby Zepce, creating a new Muslim enclave in central Bosnia, U.N. military officials said Friday.

They said the Serbs and Croats had managed to cut the so-called Maglaj finger, a salient of territory surrounded by Serb-controlled areas that dominated supply routes north of the Bosnian capital Sarajevo.

"It is safe to assume the Maglaj finger has been cut", Lieutenant Colonel Alastair Duncan, commander of the British U.N. battalion based in Vitez, told Reuters.

U.N. military sources said Bosnian Court Forces (HVO) had overrun the town of Zepce, south of Maglaj, meaning that Muslim troops coming from the central town of Zenica could no longer reach the Maglaj area.

The encirclement of Maglaj was a major setback for the Muslims in the battle for territory that has followed a Serb and Croat proposal for a three-way partition of Bosnia on ethnic lines.

It created an enclave inhabited by at least 100,000 people including Maglaj, which has an estimated 10,000 inhabitants, and the town of Zavidovici with 50,000.

Six similar Muslim enclaves surrounded by Serb forces in eastern Bosnia have been declared "safe areas" by the U.N. Security Council, but still come

under frequent attack.

Maglaj and Zavidovici are defended by the Muslim-led Bosnian army which has been fighting to preserve the central Bosnia region as a Muslim heartland in any carve-up of the former Yugoslav republic.

Despite their collaboration in the battle for Maglaj, Serbs and Croats were reported to be fighting each other in Krajina, a Serb-held enclave in Croatia.

The Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, said Croatian guns and multiple rocket launchers pummed Serb settlements in Krajina Thursday, killing three civilians and wounding three.

In Sarajevo, U.N. refugee agency officials said up to 10,000 Muslim refugees were streaming south from the Maglaj area, many along mountain trails.

They said the number of refugees in the area was growing at an alarming rate.

"In the past month there have been 35,000 people displaced, both Croats and Muslims," said Peter Kessler, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

He said Zenica, one possible destination for the Maglaj refugees, was already gorged with displaced people. "There is really no place in Zenica where they could be sheltered."

Mr. Kessler said Serb gunners were shelling the eastern Muslim enclave of Gorazde for the second day and U.N. staff there

had again taken to shelters.

There was a serious shortage of food after the Serbs stopped a convoy with 800 tonnes of supplies from reaching Gorazde Thursday.

"The situation in Gorazde is very serious. In addition to the long-term residents of the area there are 38,000 displaced people who have had to flee four or five times and are in a very grave situation," Mr. Kessler said.

U.N. observers evacuated from Zepce Thursday quoted a Croat commander there as saying: "There are three sides, you can't fight both of them therefore you must ally with one."

At least seven Serb tanks were seen near Zepce and U.N. sources said 1,500 Serb troops from the 22nd Mountain Brigade had thrown a pontoon bridge across the Bosnia River.

A U.N. military source speculated that severing the Maglaj finger could allow Bosnian Serbs to pursue their aim of a so-called "southern corridor."

Such a corridor would effectively cut Bosnia in two on an axis running north-west to south-east, linking up territory the Serbs have conquered in eastern and western Bosnia during the 15-month-old war.

Meanwhile, Yugoslav crisis mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg said Thursday the chances of a negotiated end to the Bosnian war were being threatened by a recent escalation of the conflict.

Briefing officials from the 33 countries and organisations that form the steering committee of the Geneva conference on ex-Yugoslavia, Mr. Stoltenberg said: "We are in a hurry."

He added: "Every day we lose, the situation on the ground deteriorates in a way that undermines our chances of getting a settlement."

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali says he is more optimistic about the situation in the former Yugoslavia than he was two days ago, and he believes negotiators have arrived "at the beginning of a solution to the problem."

"I believe that there is progress, and at least this is the feeling of my special representative, Mr. Stoltenberg, that there is progress in the whole peace process in the region," the secretary general said at a July 1 news briefing in Geneva.

He did not elaborate about reasons for his optimism, but he had talked earlier with members of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, which was meeting in Geneva.

"My position is that we must find a solution and that the solution will not be found unless all the protagonists in the conflict are in agreement. So what we must look for is a common denominator which would allow the construction of a sustainable solution for the former Yugoslavia," he said.



Exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide (centre) poses with (left to right) U.N. mediator Dante Caputo, France's deputy U.N. envoy Philippe Seltz, Canada's deputy U.N. envoy David Maloney and Venezuela's U.N. Ambassador Diego Arria prior to a meeting on Governors Island (AFP photo)

## Haiti ready to allow Aristide back

NEW YORK (R) — Haiti's military leaders are close to accepting an agreement to restore ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power, the United Nations has announced.

Sources close to the talks said the proposed deal would also grant the military leaders amnesty for any crimes connected with the coup.

The agreement, which will include the resignation of military chief General Raoul Cedras, is part of a package presented to both sides by U.N. mediator Dante Caputo, U.N. spokesman Juan-Carlos Brandt told reporters at the talks.

"I am authorised to say that Mr. Caputo has learned a few minutes ago that an agreement on the part of the military side is imminent," he said.

Gen. Cedras led the coup that overthrew Mr. Aristide in September 1991.

According to a negotiator, the undisclosed U.N. plan sets an Oct. 30 date for Mr. Aristide's return.

Mr. Aristide had wanted to be returned to power in six weeks following an agreement but Gen. Cedras had earlier proposed at least six months, sources said.

Also part of Mr. Caputo's agenda are the resignation of the headline Port-Au-Prince Police Chief Joseph Michel Francois and the dispatch of a U.N. security

force.

The talks appeared to have made substantial progress in their fifth day.

Harsh words from the military side early in the day were replaced by conciliatory talk from Gen. Cedras delegation member Serge Charles.

Greasing the wheels of agreement was the news that the Clinton administration was ready to provide \$36 million in aid to help the impoverished country increasingly choked by international sanctions.

Haiti's Ambassador to Washington Jean Casimir said the plan contained Mr. Aristide's main demands — the resignation of the military high command and his return to power.

Mr. Caputo has been shuttling between the Aristide and Cedras delegations since the talks began Sunday at secluded Governors Island off the tip of Manhattan in New York Harbour.

"I decided this is the moment to present both sides with a complete plan to end the political crisis of Haiti," said Mr. Caputo, a former Argentine foreign minister.

Gen. Cedras and Mr. Aristide have yet to meet, a fact that has upset the military delegation. A spokesman for Gen. Cedras stressed that a direct meeting was the purpose of coming to New York.

But Mr. Caputo remained the

middle man in the discussions Thursday.

Venezuela's U.N. Ambassador Diego Arria, briefed by Mr. Caputo on the talks, said a technical group to help Haitian authorities establish order was under discussion rather than a U.N. police force that would take charge of the country.

"It would be a technical cooperation group to restructure the police," he said. "The police today are not working like a police force but more like part of the armed forces."

Sources close to the Aristide camp said that some key issues remained unresolved including the question of when the actual transfer of power would take place.

While the military wants to keep some control during a transition period, Mr. Aristide wants immediate power.

A source said Mr. Aristide is worried that continuing military power could subvert the drive to democracy.

Meanwhile a series of small explosions jarred the Haitian capital Thursday. One person was seriously injured, local radio said.

State television reported at least two serious injuries including a boy around age 12.

The police did not say who they suspect was behind the blasts.

## Azerbaijan launches offensive on Karabakh

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Azerbaijani warplanes Friday bombed the southeastern region of Nagorno-Karabakh as ground troops launched a large-scale offensive, news agencies reported.

The Armenian News Agency Snark quoted the chairman of the Armenian self-defence committee, Robert Kocharyan, as saying that Azeri troops seized the southeastern villages of Zangur, Tsor, Melikjani and Zakhvag.

There was heavy fighting in the town centre of Gadрут and around the northern district of Markardak, a former Azerbaijani stronghold that fell to Armenians last Sunday.

The attack came two days after Colonel Suret Guseinov whose rebel troops ousted President Abulfaz Elchibey earlier this month was appointed prime minister of the embattled Caucasus republic.

Col. Guseinov vowed to end the war in Nagorno-Karabakh by reconquering the enclave and large sections of surrounding territory that have been seized by separatist Armenian fighters in the past three months.

Mr. Kocharyan said Baku had dispatched a heavy contingent of troops in the southeastern part of Nagorno-Karabakh along with tanks.

Azerbaijan has been fighting a war against its Armenian minority of Nagorno-Karabakh since 1988 making it the longest ongoing conflict in the former Soviet Union.

The bloodshed has claimed at least 7,000 lives and forced tens of thousands to flee the region.

Azerbaijan's acting leader Geidar Aliyev issued a nationwide call to arms Thursday and announced the unification of all armed forces in the troubled Transcaucasian republic.

The order followed a wave of defeats at the hands of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Mr. Aliyev, who claimed power after democratically elected Mr. Elchibey fled Baku 14 days ago in the wake of the rebellion, said all Azeri men over 18 had to join up before July 20, Azeri state television said.

Quoting an order by the returned Soviet-era leader, a television announcer said:

"It has been decided to unify all the armed forces of the republic under a single command. All men over 18 are called to military service and must report before July 20."

Azerbaijan's fledgling armed forces have until now, in practice, had no unified command.

Although young men are already subject to call-up, in the sixth year of the war many have taken to sniping their national service.

Mr. Elchibey was commander-in-chief and in theory the defence minister answered directly to him. But a series of militias have continued to exist side by side with the official national army.

Much of the criticism levelled at the president during his one year in office has focussed on his failure to build a strong unified army capable of reversing heavy military losses sustained this year in Nagorno-Karabakh.

## Russia, Ukraine reaffirm pledge to split fleet

KIEV (R) — The presidents of Russia and Ukraine have pledged to abide by their agreement to split the Black Sea Fleet equally, rejecting a call by the fleet's commander to leave it under joint management.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said he understood the concerns of officers opposed to dividing the fleet but insisted a separate fleet was a key part of his country's statehood.

He said he would consult Russian President Boris Yeltsin on further steps to be taken.

Mr. Yeltsin, visiting Greece, issued a statement stressing his commitment to the accord struck in Moscow last month.

He denounced political forces he said were bent on "stoking tension", an apparent reference to the rebel Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi who sent a telegram to the fleet's servicemen supporting their objections to the division of the fleet.

The navy's commander,

Admiral Eduard Baltin, criticised the accord in an interview with Interfax News Agency, saying it would be "ruinous" for the former Soviet fleet.

Adm. Baltin, apparently defying his critics a day after ordering the fleet's 300 vessels to abide by the accord dividing the fleet by 1995.

Officers complied and abandoned a planned protest to raise the Russian ensign, instead of the Soviet naval flag as required by the pact.

Mr. Kravchuk told reporters he understood that officers' disenchanted with the accord were interested in the military consequences of such a move.

"It is easily understood that from the military standpoint it is better to have one fleet than two. But from the standpoint of politics, law and statehood, I cannot agree," he said. "They have to remember that Ukraine exists and has a right to its own fleet."

## Gunman kills 8, then self in U.S. shooting

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A man with two pistols strapped to his suspenders, a gun in one hand and a bag of bullets in the other walked into a law firm's high-rise office and opened fire. He killed eight people and wounded six before committing suicide, police said.

The San Francisco Chronicle and San Francisco Examiner Friday identified the gunman as Gian Luigi Ferri, 55, of Woodland Hills, a suburb of Los Angeles. The San Francisco Police and medical examiner refused to comment. The man's motive was still a mystery.

The gunman and six of his victims were found dead inside the sleek glass skyscraper at 101 California St. in the downtown financial district. Mayor Frank Jordan said. Two others died at San Francisco General Hospital.

This assailant put a gun under his chin and pulled the trigger when he spotted police approaching him on a stairwell, a little more than an hour after the shooting began, Mr. Jordan said.

Nancy Asbill, an attorney at Pettit and Martin, the law firm on the 34th floor where the gunman began his rampage, was in the bathroom when the man started shooting shortly before 3 p.m. (2000 GMT).

"We heard the fire alarm," said Ms. Asbill, visibly shaken. "We thought it was a fire drill. Then we saw the bullet holes and smelled the smoke. We ran out."

"We think the individual must have known someone," Mr. Jordan said.

## Sihanouk: Khmer Rouge is ready to trade land for government role

PHNOM PENH (AP) — The Khmer Rouge would give up the 20 per cent of Cambodia it controls for a role in the newly elected government, Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Friday.

But head of state Sihanouk said if the government elected in the U.N.-organised poll in May brings the Khmer Rouge into the new government then foreign countries would withhold much needed aid from Cambodia.

He noted that the United States already had said it would not provide assistance to Cambodia if the Khmer Rouge was given a role in the administration that is to take control in August.

He said the issue appears impossible to settle for the time being and urged that the Khmer Rouge be dealt with "very gently."

Prince Sihanouk's statements came one day after meeting with Khmer Rouge leaders who returned to Cambodia Thursday after two months of self-imposed exile in the group's stronghold in northwestern Cambodia.

The Khmer Rouge pulled out

of Phnom Penh in April, fearing for its safety because the group was boycotting the election. It said the poll was rigged to favour the Vietnamese-installed government that overthrew the Khmer Rouge in 1978.

But the Khmer Rouge's ally during Cambodia's 13-year civil war, the FUNCINPEC Party, won the poll and has been trying to make good on its campaign promise to bring about national reconciliation.

It appears to have made substantial progress on the military front, almost having convinced the Khmer Rouge to turn its fighting force of 10,000 guerrillas over to the new national army being formed.

Khmer Rouge officials have said they were interested in joining the army but a few technical details had to be worked out.

The group killed hundreds of thousands of Cambodians during its four-year reign of terror in the 1970s. It was toppled when Vietnam invaded in 1978, pushing the Khmer Rouge into the jungles from where it fought the 13-year

civil war.

The Khmer Rouge was among four factions that signed a 1991 peace accord to end the war and authorise the U.N. mission. But it later backed out of the pact, saying it favoured the Vietnamese-installed government.

It has continued skirmishing with soldiers of that outgoing government while trying to negotiate its way into the new one.

The newly elected Constituent Assembly and the cabinet it has chosen to lead the country through the transitional period took their vows Friday at a ceremony led by Prince Sihanouk.

Bowing in front of Prince Sihanouk, the members repeated after him their vows to be honest and serve the nation as a handful of Buddhist monks looked on in the elaborately decorated palace.

The United Nations Friday outlined conditions — including opening their zones for inspection — under which the Khmer Rouge could rejoin the Cambodian peace process.

## Parliament: Nuclear arms are Ukrainian property

KIEV (R) — Ukraine's parliament Friday proclaimed ownership rights over former Soviet nuclear weapons deployed on its territory.

Deputies approved by 226 votes to 15 a foreign policy doctrine which declared Ukraine "owns nuclear weapons on its territory." But the document said Ukraine had no intention of using or threatening to use them.

The doctrine also said the former Soviet republic "stresses its intention to become a non-nuclear state in the future."

Ukraine's parliament is embroiled in a lengthy debate on approving the START-I and non-

proliferation treaties under which it is to give up the 176 former Soviet intercontinental missiles still on its territory.

The former Soviet republic pledged last year to back both pacts, but an increasing number of deputies, including Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, say Ukraine should keep some of the weapons at least temporarily.

President Leonid Kravchuk has promised Ukraine will honour its international obligations but shared deputies' concerns that Kiev needs security guarantees and compensation of some \$2 billion in exchange for giving up the weapons.

## Poll: Japanese bureaucrats favour new parties over LDP

TOKYO (Agencies) — The ruling Liberal Democrats, facing the possibility that voters may throw them out after 38 years in power, appeared Friday to be losing ground with two other traditional sources of support — businessmen and bureaucrats.

A survey published Friday showed that mid-career ministry bureaucrats, including the powerful finance and foreign ministries, favour a coalition government that would include newly established opposition parties following national elections on July 18.

Major business organisations dealt the Liberal Democrats — their usual favourites — a telling blow Thursday when they said they would begin contributions to the new parties.

For the first time since they gained power in 1955, the odds are running against the Liberal Democrats, raising various possibilities for a coalition government. Nearly 900 candidates will vie for 511 seats in the election.

The survey of 100 bureaucrats, conducted last month by the Mainichi national newspaper, found that only 4 per cent supported a government ruled by the Liberal Democrats alone.

Nearly a third wanted a non-LDP coalition government centred around new rebel parties established by lawmakers who have defected from the governing party.

The survey did not give a margin of error.

Highly educated, elite ministry bureaucrats are credited with engineering Japan's postwar industrial growth. They have so much power in determining policy and writing bills that a change of prime minister is often regarded as a mere change of figureheads.

The bureaucrats are the main reason Secretary of State Warren Christopher downplayed any alarm over Japan's ability to make decisions ahead of the group of seven economic summit in Tokyo next week, despite the domestic political shakeup.

The emergence of new parties set up by fellow conservatives who say they differ with the Liberal Democrats only on the issue of political reform means that the ruling party cannot count on monopolising corporate donations by claiming to be the only party defending free enterprise, as it did during the cold war.

Older opposition parties with traditionally leftist ideologies failed to seriously challenge the Liberal Democrats in the past mainly because they were viewed as unfit to govern this staunchly pro-free enterprise, conservative nation.

The new parties, conservative and pro-U.S. like the Liberal Democrats, have gained ground with their platform favouring

cleaning up rampant political corruption.

The 13-month-old Japan New Party surged from just two seats in the 128-seat Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly to 20 in last Sunday's city elections.

The Liberal Democrats were facing more slack Friday after Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi acknowledged he had requested funding from major banks for his upcoming election campaign.

Mr. Hayashi said the donations were all within legal limits and were unrelated to his position as finance minister. Corporate donations are limited to 50 million yen (\$462,000) total a year per donor.

"I have friends in banking, and I have received donations from them before," Mr. Hayashi said.

The National Asahi newspaper slammed the donation as a possible abuse of power.

"A request from a cabinet member for funding from the sector his ministry oversees is sure to set off criticism not only from the financial world but also from the public," the Asahi said in an editorial aside.

Mr. Hayashi faces a fierce contest in his own southern constituency from a member of one of the new rebel parties.

Meanwhile, four Japanese opposition party chiefs, citing ruling party corruption, rejected

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's plea Friday to join a coalition after the July 18 election.

In a public debate at the National Press Club, Mr. Miyazawa said the July polls presented a choice between stability and dangerous adventure, implying that the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was the only party capable of keeping Japan on the right track.

But, with the LDP likely returning with less than a majority in the elections for the crucial lower house, its prospects of staying in power, even as part of a coalition, look dim.

Mr. Miyazawa refused to answer when asked repeatedly whether he would resign as LDP president if his party failed to gain a majority on July 18.

"Our goal is to do our best to return with a majority and that is all I have to say. Even if we don't, we will still be the largest party and so we will try to form a coalition with people with similar minds," Mr. Miyazawa said.

Mr. Miyazawa's two-year term as LDP president, which has always carried with it the premiership because of the party's majority in parliament, will end in September.

"You have lost the credentials of a ruling party," Koshiro Ishida, head of the centrist Komeito (Clean Government Party), told Mr. Miyazawa in the debate.

## 11 couples hold Qatar's 1st group marriage

DUBAI (R) — The brother of Qatar's emir hosted the first collective wedding in the Gulf Arab state in a move aimed at encouraging citizens to marry young. The Qatar News Agency (QNA) said Sheikh Mohammad bin Hamad Al Thani, a former education minister and the older brother of the Emir Sheikh Khalifa, paid for the joint wedding of 11 couples at a five-star Doha Hotel.

The experiment is aimed at sharing part of the financial burden and encouraging the youth to marry at an early age, said QNA, adding that there would be further group marriages. It blamed large financial obligations, an apparent reference to lavish weddings and exorbitant dowry demands by Gulf Arab parents, for encouraging Qatari males to remain bachelors.

In neighbouring United Arab Emirates, President Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayan Saturday called for the formation of a company to host weddings at a token fee to help local youth. He also asked six of his children to contribute \$136,000 each to the new enterprise to encourage wealthy citizens to take up shares in the charitable project. UAE bridegrooms who marry local women are offered \$20,000 from a special marriage fund which has an annual budget of at least \$50 million dirhams (\$13.6 million).

## Kennedy daughter marries Irish activist

BOSTON (AP) — Mary Courtney Kennedy, daughter of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, has married one of the men wrongfully imprisoned for the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) "Guildford four" bombings. Ms. Kennedy was married in a private ceremony at sea to Paul Michael Hill of Belfast Saturday, her family announced. Her mother, Ethel Kennedy, attended. Mr. Hill is co-author of the book Stolen Years, the story of his 16-year imprisonment for the bombings. He was released when the conviction was reversed. The marriage aboard the Varmer VE in the Aegean Sea was performed by the ship's captain and owner, Vardis Vardinoyannis. A mass was celebrated by the Rev. Michael Kennedy. It was the second marriage for Ms. Kennedy, 37, who works for the AIDS Foundation for Immunology and Allergology. The couple planned a honeymoon in Ireland.

## Artifacts recovered from sunken vessel off France

PARIS (AFP) — French and U.S. divers have brought to the surface the first artifacts to be recovered from the wreck of the American civil war ship the C.S.S. Alabama which sank off the northern French coast in 1864. Officials said about 30 items — including crockery and a number of coins — were recovered from the ship, sunk on June 19 that year off Cherbourg by the USS Kearsage, belonging to its northern foes in the American conflict. The joint U.S. and French operation was carried out between June 8 and July 1 to benefit from the light at this time of year, which helped visibility at a depth of 60 metres, in currents of up to four knots. But U.S. and French divers were accompanied on the mission by three observers from the Submerged Cultural Resources Unit of the American National Park Service, an archaeologist and a photographer from the National Geographic magazine.

## Father accused of abusing daughter, giving her AIDS

TOULOUSE, France (AP) — A trial has opened for a 44-year-old father accused of transmitting the deadly AIDS virus to his daughter during years of sexual abuse. The man, who was not identified, was denounced by his daughter, now 19, as having abused her since she was eight years old. She was diagnosed in 1985 as carrying the HIV virus that leads to acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). The daughter testified that her parents practiced spousal swapping and sometimes took her along as a child, allowing other men to abuse her. Her mother died of AIDS last year. The daughter said that she had come under intense family pressure to withdraw the accusations since she made them in 1991, but said that her mother finally told her to press ahead before she died. The father, charged with child abuse, denies the accusations.



## Graf mends Novotna in final

WIMBLEDON (AP) — A switch in tactics paid off for Steffi Graf. After a slow start, the defending champion displayed the versatility that makes her the overwhelming favourite to take the Wimbledon title for a fifth time.

Graf used an improved net game to rally from 1-4, 0-30 down in the first set to defeat Conchita Martinez 7-6 (7-0), 6-3 in Thursday's semifinals.

"It was very difficult for me to get into the match," said Graf. "Because she was serving very fast, and the ground strokes weren't really with a lot of pace. I needed a lot of time to get into it."

The No. 1 seed will play surprise finalist Jana Novotna on Saturday. Novotna had earlier stunned No. 2 Martina Navratilova 6-4, 6-4, preventing what was expected to be a classic championship battle between the two players that have won this tournament for 11 years running.

"It is disappointing (that I won't be playing Navratilova)," said Graf. "Because it is always special when we play against each other. ... I think that's why everybody was looking forward to it."

Pete Sampras, dubbed public enemy No. 1 in England, won no few friends when he beat Andre Agassi, the nation's favourite athlete in a new poll, 6-2, 6-2, 3-6, 3-6, 6-4.

Sampras was bothered more by another problem, a sore shoulder that required treatment before, during and after his last two matches. But he's in the semifinals Friday against three-time champion Boris Becker, a 7-5, 6-7 (7-5), 6-7, (7-5), 6-2, 6-4 victory over 1991 champ Michael Stich.

In the other semifinal Jim Courier, a 6-2 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 winner against fellow American Todd Martin, faced two-time champion Stefan Edberg, who beat Cedric Pioline 7-5, 7-5, 6-3.

Following are brief pen portraits of Graf and Novotna, who contest the Wimbledon singles final Saturday:

**Steffi Graf (Germany)**  
Age: 24  
Seeded: One  
Career prize money: \$11.54 million  
Titles: 12 Grand Slam, 73 overall

**Coach:** Heinz Guntard, former Swiss Davis Cup player.  
**Grand Slam record:** Winner 1987, 1988 and 1993 French Open, 1988 and 1990 Australian Open, 1988, 1989, 1991 and 1992 Wimbledon and 1988 and 1989 U.S. Open.

**Path to final:** Beat Kirrily Sharpe (Australia) 6-0, 6-0, Clare Wood (Britain) 6-2, 6-1, Helen Kelesi (Canada) 6-0, 6-0, Meredith McGrath (U.S.) 6-1, 6-4, Jennifer Capriati (U.S.) 7-6, 6-1, Conchita Martinez (Spain) 7-6, 6-3.

**Playing style:** Right-hander with devastating forehand and a much-improved backhand, which has been restricted to playing sliced shots. Used to play her matches from the baseline but varies her game more now and is prepared to go forward on occasions. Mentally tough, though she has appeared more fragile in last



Jim Courier

Record: First player to complete Golden Grand Slam of four Grand Slam events and Olympic title in 1988. Number one ranked player for record (men or women) of 186 weeks from August 1987 to March 1991.

Returned to number one after French Open for first time since

few years.  
**Personal:** Born in Bruehl on June 1, 1969. 1.75 metres tall. Started playing at age four, turned professional in October 1982. Younger brother Peter is a Formula Three racing driver. Loves animals and owns four dogs. Enjoys music, art and photography. Has a youth tennis

October 2 1968 and still lives there. Avoided going to Prague, because she prefers smaller towns. Turned pro in 1987. 1.75 metres tall. Only one in family to play tennis. Father is engineer and mother a teacher. Older brother Paul studying engineering. Enjoys ice hockey, golf, roller skating, skiing and football.

### WIMBLEDON NOTEBOOK

If nothing else, Barbara Streisand's centre court appearance to watch her "good friend" Andre Agassi gave the British tabloids headline writers plenty of overtime work.

After all, think how long it must have taken for the Daily Mirror to come up with "Barbra cry-sand," with a picture of the singer seemingly on the verge of tears after Agassi's loss to Pete Sampras in Wednesday's quarterfinals.

Photos of Streisand cheering on Agassi were featured on the front page of virtually every national newspaper, including the quality broadsheets.

The Evening Standard added a little intrigue to the saga, saying that Agassi is "flying back to America and straight into the arms of his long-time girlfriend Wendie Stewart."

"Andre is baffled as to why everybody thinks he and Wendie are no longer an item," the paper quoted Agassi friend Perry Rogers as saying.

Well, that could be because Agassi was quoted in the Daily Express two weeks ago as saying that he and Stewart called it quits last December.

Stay tuned.  
★ Autograph hound: Wimbledon officials insist there was no breach of security when a teenage fan ran onto centre court to get Boris Becker's autograph.

After Becker's victory over Michael Stich in the quarterfinals Wednesday, a girl emerged from the stands and ran in front of the No. 4 seed. Becker signed an autograph and gave the girl a sweatband before she was removed by security staff.

A spokeswoman for the All England Club said the girl was returned to her seat and the guards chose to take no further action.

"There was no breach of security and the girl was taken off the court quickly," said Sue Youngman. "This was an unusual circumstance and we want to discourage any repetition."

No DI: Rumour had it that Princess Diana was planning to spend her 32nd birthday Thursday watching the women's semifinals from the royal box. But royal watchers straining for a glimpse of the princess were disappointed — she never showed up.

Diana is an avid tennis fan and plays the game herself. She rarely misses Wimbledon, but has yet to make an appearance this year.

Sanchez dumped: Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, known on the tennis tour for frequently and brutally ending relationships with coaches, has been dumped herself this time.

## Sampras carves Becker to pieces

LONDON (AFP) — An immaculate performance of attacking tennis from Pete Sampras sent Boris Becker crashing out of Wimbledon Friday.

The American produced a clinical performance worthy of a world number one to reach his first Wimbledon final 7-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Becker, who had taken over as favourite to win a fourth Wimbledon crown after getting past Michael Stich in the quarterfinals, had the confidence battered out of him as Sampras slapped down the few slim chances he had to get into the match.

Showing iron nerves, the American top seed survived two break points in the final game of the match before clinching the victory with an easy volley after a powerful serve down the centre line.

A series of double faults at key moments cost Becker extremely dear. After he had lost the first set tiebreak, he served three in the third game of the second set to hand his opponent the break and ultimately the set.

Sampras, who had saved a break point in the previous game with a service winner, wobbled only once, at 5-4 when he allowed Becker to take him to 15-40. But three perfectly played serve and volley points got him to set point and he took a stranglehold on the match when Becker played a backhand wide.

Another Becker double fault, at break point in the first game of the third gave the American the opening he needed and until the brief show of nerves at the end, he never looked like failing to close out the match.

## Copa America

## Argentina face Mexico in final

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador (R) — Argentina, strong on commitment but short of flair, won the dubious right to defend South American prestige against upstart guests Mexico in the Copa America soccer final Sunday.

Emulating their 1990 World Cup predecessors, the holders reached the final Thursday night after a second successive penalty shoot-out following a 0-0 semi-final draw with Colombia.

Their chief virtue appears to be shooting from the spot, with no misses in 12 penalties — six against Brazil in their quarter-final and six past Colombian keeper Oscar Cordoba — and having specialist Sergio Goycochea in goal.

Coach Alfio Basile said as much. "I don't think it (the shoot-out) is a lottery ... it depends on the players you have and the goalkeeper you have."

Argentina, brilliant winners of the trophy two years ago in Chile with Gabriel Batistuta alone notching up six goals in seven games, have failed to inspire the Ecuadorian crowds or even their own fans — victories aside.

Basile, uttering his favourite phrase of the tournament, said: "In Chile we were much better prepared than here."

Two factors appear to have weighed heavily on Basile's mind in Ecuador. Imminent World Cup qualifiers against Colombia, Paraguay and Peru and an unbeaten run as Argentina boss that now stands at 28 matches.

Basile has denied the record affects his approach — and arguably Argentina's opponents may be in awe of it — but he wanted in no way to allow a more skilful Colombia to take the upper hand in two World Cup qualifying



Ramon Ramirez of Mexico scores his team's second goal during their semi final match against Ecuador (AFP photo)

"We nullified their creative players," Basile said.

Basile has injury problems ahead of Sunday's final at the monumental stadium in Guayaquil, the hot and humid southern port city where his side have played all their matches.

Captain Oscar Ruggeri missed the second half against Colombia because of a thigh injury and

midfielder Diego Simeone took a knock on the leg that affected his pace.

Mexico, who will be playing in their fifth different stadium in Ecuador in the final, were invited for the first time to the Copa America, the South American Championship which is the world's oldest international soccer competition.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Qatar lifts sporting boycott on Iraq

MANAMA (AFP) — Qatar has put the Gulf War behind it and renewed sporting links with Iraq, much to the distress of Kuwait. A club funded by the sports authority, Al-Wakra, has signed up two star Iraqi international players and will also play a friendly in Baghdad against Al-Zawra August 23, according to Qatari officials. Midfielder Leith Hussein and striker Ahmad Radhi have been snapped up for \$45,000 and \$30,000 respectively, and will earn \$2,000 and \$4,000 each a month. The contracts were signed by Al Wakra chairman Khalifa bin Hassan Al-Thani, who also congratulated Iraq on reaching the second round of the Asian qualifiers for the 1994 World Cup, Qatar press reports said. Khalifa has meanwhile also invited the Iraqi national squad for a training stint in Doha.

#### Hill sets the pace

NAGNY-COURS, France (AFP) — Britain's Damon Hill streamed into provisional pole position for the French Grand Prix Friday, eclipsing his teammate and race favourite Alain Prost. He coined his best lap in the Williams-Renault at 1 min 15.051 sec. more than half a second quicker than Prost, who has stopped form pole at every race this season. Germany's Michael Schumacher, the third fastest, was nearly two seconds off the pace in his Benetton Ford, but just ahead of Prost's archrival Ayrton Senna in the McLaren Ford.

#### Ordenewitz to join Littbarski in Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — FC Cologne forward Frank Ordenewitz will join fellow German Pierre Littbarski in trying to win Japan's inaugural J-League title for JEF United Ichihara. JEF United said Friday that 28-year-old Ordenewitz, who arrives in Japan Sunday, would lead the team's attack with Littbarski. The transfer fee was not disclosed, but has been estimated at around 1.3 million marks (\$300,000).

#### Torino aiming to lure Gullit

ROME (R) — Italian Cup holders Torino said Thursday that they were hoping to sign ex-European Footballer of the Year Ruud Gullit from champions AC Milan. "I am optimistic about reaching an agreement which will allow the Dutchman to play for us next season," Torino president Roberto Goveani told reporters. Goveani added he planned to meet the 30-year-old Gullit Monday for talks. The dreadlocked Gullit has said he plans to leave Milan after six successful, albeit injury-plagued, seasons.

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with the Italian champions. He reportedly has a gentlemen's agreement with Milan that he will move only to a foreign club but Torino believe they can lure the 1987 European Footballer of the Year.

#### Greece and Germany advance in Eurobasketball

MUNICH (R) — Greece and Germany notched thrilling late victories to reach the semifinals of the European Basketball Championships Thursday. Panagitis Fasoulas scored a winning basket in the last five seconds as Greece beat France 61-59 in their quarter-final. Then after coming back from the dead to force overtime, the German's snatched a 79-77 win over Spain in the last second with a spectacular long-range jump shot from Christian Welp. The two teams now compose themselves for a showdown in the semifinals which is sure to be played in an intense atmosphere in Munich's Olympic arena.

#### Burruchaga charged in Marseille bribe scandal

PARIS (AP) — Jorge Burruchaga, who helped Argentina win the World Cup in 1986, was charged with corruption Thursday in the bribery scandal involving European club champion Olympique Marseille. Burruchaga was the second Valenciennes player alleged to have been offered money by a Marseille player to throw first division match so Marseille could save its energy for the champions cup final against AC Milan.

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### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH  
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#### DUMP THOSE WINNERS

North-South vulnerable. East deals.  
**NORTH**  
♠ 7 6  
♥ A K Q 8 3  
♦ 8 6  
♣ Q J 8 7  
**WEST**  
♠ A K 10 7 5  
♥ J 10 7 6 4  
♦ A Q 4  
♣ 10 5 3  
Void  
**SOUTH**  
♠ Q 4 3  
♥ 9 5  
♦ K J 9 7 2  
♣ A K 9

The bidding: Seven of ♠  
In 1984, Ralph Cohen of Montreal was a key member of the Canadian team that reached the semifinal of the World Team Olympiad. These days it is his sons, Billy and Jordan, who keep the family name in the forefront. Here's Jordan's defense on this deal from the recent Summer North American Championships in Toronto.

North-South reached three no

trump on a routine auction. Jordan, West, led the seven of spades and, since declarer could not be sure that West held both high spade honors, the six was played from dummy and the trick was taken in hand with the queen. Declarer cashed the ace of hearts, then ran four club tricks. What would you discard from the West hand?

Two shifts are easy to make—the two red fous. What about the other two?

Should West discard the five and ten of spades, declarer will cash the remaining high hearts and exit with a heart. West will be able to win and cash two spade tricks, but then will have to lead away from the ace of diamonds to give declarer the fulfilling trick.

West foresaw this ending, and discarded the K 10 of spades, holding onto the five. Now the throw-in would no longer work, because West would be able to cash the ace of spades, then put East on lead with the nine to play a diamond through the king.

Alas for the best-laid plans of mice and men. When declarer cashed a second heart East pitched a spade, and the contract was home!

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## South African parties set elections for April 1994

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Black and white political groups Friday set April 27, 1994, as the date for South Africa's first elections including the black majority.

The election will formally end decades of apartheid and mark the final stage of the transition from white rule to a multi-racial democracy.

Twenty of the 26 parties supported the resolution setting the date, and Pravin Gordhan, chairman of the session, ruled there was "sufficient consensus" in favour.

But pro-apartheid white groups and conservative black groups protested, causing Mr. Gordhan to adjourn the session for lunch. He said his decision stood but there could be further discussion later Friday.

The negotiators also agreed to set up a transitional body that would give South Africa's black majority a right to be consulted on the running of the country until the holding of the elections.

A technical commission will draw up a constitution for the transitional period, serving as a basic law until a constituent assembly can be formed following the elections and the adoption of a definitive constitution.

The elections, to be organised on the principle of one man, one vote, will be the first since the country was created in which the black majority will be entitled to vote.

An electoral commission is to be formed as is another commission charged with ensuring the independence of the media.

Negotiators from 26 political groupings have been discussing the country's future development.

The majority decision on a transitional body has opposed by some of the groupings, notably the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party which also argued strongly against the decision on elections.

The opponents of an election date say they need further assurances that a post-apartheid government will allow partly autonomous states where they can govern themselves.

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Negotiators agreed Thursday on general constitutional principles and appointed a panel to draft legislation that would form the multiparty transitional executive council sought by the ANC and its allies.

The ANC wants the panel to have joint control of security forces, foreign affairs and other portfolios in the run up to elections.

Police continued to impose tight security at the conference centre following last week's raid by white extremists who stormed the building and assaulted journalists and delegates.

U.S. President Bill Clinton. Mr. De Klerk is seeking to end the ban on World Bank and International Monetary Fund loans to South Africa, while Mr. Mandela hopes to raise millions of dollars for an ANC election campaign.

But Mr. Mandela said he was unable to call for the lifting of remaining U.S. sanctions against South Africa until the government endorses a multi-party council to help run the country until the elections.

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U.N. Italian soldiers carrying a wounded comrade rush towards a helicopter during clashes in Mogadishu Friday (AFP photo)

## Germany turns away illegal aliens

BERLIN (R) — German border police Friday said they had refused entry to nearly 60 illegal aliens at the country's eastern borders on the first day of tight new limits on political asylum.

Border police in Frankfurt-on-Oder on the Polish frontier said 65 aliens, most from Romania and former Yugoslavia, had tried to enter illegally from the east, the main land route for an influx of refugees, by midnight Thursday.

All but eight of the refugees were immediately turned away under the new policy passed by parliament last month to stem a mounting tide of asylum seekers from eastern Europe and the developing world.

The fate of the remaining eight was to be decided later on Friday, said a border police spokesman.

Thirty-five refugees were detained in open fields along the Polish border and another 27 were captured along the border to the Czech Republic, the spokesman said. Three others from China were refused entry at Berlin's airport.

Figures for the number of illegal aliens detained along all of Germany's nine international frontiers were not available, but officials at the country's biggest international airport at Frankfurt in western Germany said 26 illegal aliens had been detained there on Thursday.

"We are doing all we can to control the borders so that as few illegal aliens as possible cross over," said Peter Fuchs, spokesman at the border police headquarters in Koblenz.

"But it would require a wall to completely seal off the border and that is not in the government's interest."

The new laws, which limit asylum rights adopted by Bonn after World War II to atone for Nazi crimes, effectively seal off the land route to Germany by declaring refugees can apply for asylum in all of Bonn's bordering states.

Bonn has also created a list of countries deemed safe from political persecution whose nationals as a rule cannot apply for asylum in Germany.

The most common land route for asylum seekers headed to Germany is along the 900-km frontier with Poland and the Czech Republic.

## Amnesty concerned over Kuwait trials

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amnesty International (AI), the London-based human rights organisation, has expressed concern that 20 people already under sentence of death in Kuwait could face imminent execution following procedures which "did not confirm to international standards for fair trial," and that 12 others now on trial also risk execution.

Twenty-four death sentences, two of them in absentia, have been passed in Kuwait since April 1992, when the state security court on June 5 charged with involvement in an alleged Iraqi government plot to assassinate the former United States (U.S.) President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait in April 1993. The prosecution asked for the death penalty to be imposed on 12 of them. At the start of the trial, two of the defendants admitted some of the charges against them. One of seven court-appointed defence lawyers intervened, requesting that these admissions be struck from the court record since none of the defendants had been allowed access to lawyers before the trial. As the second session of the trial on June 26, the two defendants mentioned above reiterated the statements they had made earlier, while other defendants denied the charges against them. The trial is scheduled to resume on July 3.

"Amnesty International is concerned that if convicted, 12 of these defendants may be sentenced to death and executed following unfair trials. In addition to its concerns about the violation of the defendants' rights during pre-trial detention (including being denied the basic right to have a lawyer defending them at all stages of the proceedings), and the failure of proceedings before the state security court to conform to international standards for fair trial, the organisation believes that the defendants' right to fair trial may have been seriously jeopardised by other factors. Even before the trial began, Kuwait's public prosecutor announced at a press conference on May 16 that the defendants were 'criminals who allied with the devil and conspired with him to try to assassinate Kuwait's honoured guest... (and that) investigations proved what our doubt that it was the Iraqi intelligence service which moved this rotten group of accused persons to execute the plans of the civil Iraqi regime...'"

"The statement said: 'Defendants tried by the state security court are denied the full right to appeal available to defendants in ordinary criminal cases. In contrast to these defendants, who are entitled to review by the Court of Appeal on issues of fact and law followed by a further review of possible errors by the Court of Cassation, state security court defendants are limited to a review of their convictions by the Court of Cassation. The statement by the foreign minister appears to suggest that review by the emir of the convictions and sentences will be pro forma, thus denying the defendants their rights to seek pardon or clemency.'

"In the past, defendants before the state security court have been denied prompt access to their lawyers, and denied the right to challenge the lawfulness of their detention before a court and to obtain their release if that detention was unlawful. They have allegedly been tortured and convicted on the basis of confessions obtained under duress, on the basis of written evidence not made available to defendants or their lawyers, or on the basis of hearsay testimony of

## 3 Italians killed in Mogadishu clashes

Combined agency despatches

THREE ITALIAN soldiers were killed Friday morning and at least 10 others wounded in clashes with Somali forces in Mogadishu.

The firing between Italian troops with the United Nations UNOSOM force in Somalia and Somalis broke out as the U.N. contingent was trying to take control of a weapons cache on the October 21 Road in a north-east district known to be loyal to wanted warlord Mohammed Farah Aided.

At least 14 soldiers were wounded during the clash, U.N. spokesmen said, adding that the toll could rise further.

Hospital sources said at least 14 Italian troops were admitted, apparently hit by Somali gunmen. Mogadishu hospitals reported admitting eight Somalis, two of them wounded.

In addition, four Somali policemen aiding the U.N. soldiers were wounded, an official said. Witnesses reported at least one Somali killed and several more wounded.

The fighting followed a day of relative peace in the capital, which marked Somalia's 33rd anniversary of independence with an angry but uneventful anti-U.N. rally.

About 3,000 people gathered for the rally at July 1 Square, where they sang the national anthem and chanted anti-U.N. slogans. Banners written in English accused the United Nations operation of being a front for U.S. plans to colonise Somalia and destroy its Islamic culture.

Somalia gained independence after the merger of the northern and southern regions, ruled by Britain and Italy, respectively.

In an independence day statement, the U.N. envoy, retired Admiral Jonathan Howe, said the country must strive for a "new independence... from the rule of warlords, from the brutality of criminals and thugs."

The U.N. military spokesman, Major David Stockwell, said about 300 Italian soldiers had searched a compound suspected of being a weapons site and encountered a roadblock when they left. Somalis at the barricade began hurling rocks at the troops, he said.

"The rocks turned into small-arms fire, and that turned into machine-gun and rocket-propelled grenades," Maj. Stockwell said.

American Cobra attack helicopters were called in and fired 20-mm cannons at gunmen, he said. No U.S. casualties were reported.

Italian helicopters and tanks with 90-mm guns were also used to disperse crowds of snipers, who kept troops and journalists pinned down for hours.

The fighting was the heaviest since June 17, when U.N. forces launched a ground and air assault against the headquarters of General Aided. Gen. Aided's forces were blamed for an attack that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers June 5.

The latest clash took place in an area controlled by Gen. Aided. It also contained the city's main gun market and some refugee camps and residences.

For nearly two weeks, weapons searches of alleged Aided bases have been conducted. They often result in clashes.

Earlier this week, two Pakistani soldiers died when they came under sniper fire while trying to search a compound where they believed weapons were stored.

Residents of refugee camps loaded their meagre belongings and began fleeing as Italian helicopter gunships hovered and snipers blasted away Friday. Angry Somalis threw rocks at some foreigners' vehicles and forced them away from the area.

The main target of Friday's operation appeared to be a compound suspected of being a cache for illegal arms for the Aided militia.

It is owned by a man named Ahmad Douale, a businessman connected with the trade in the local stimulant khat and a known supporter of Gen. Aided, whose arrest is sought over the June 5 killing of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers.

He is known to residents by the nickname "Heff," which means the skinny man, and is an associate of Aided financier Osman Atto, whose compound was destroyed by U.S. missiles launched from helicopters Wednesday.

It was the biggest operation involving ground troops anywhere in Mogadishu for more than 10 days and follows repeated UNOSOM warnings that it is determined to disarm the capital.

Coercive disarmament operations in Mogadishu are being directed against those, like General Aided, who use violence to gain political power. Adm. Howe said in a statement on Thursday.

## COLUMN

### Kuwait University gets 1st woman rector

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A woman has been named rector of Kuwait's university for the first time ever in the Gulf emirate. A spokesman for the Education Ministry said, Fayza Al Kharrafi, a doctor in chemistry and former dean of the faculty of science, was chosen from among 20 candidates, including three women. Her nomination will be confirmed next week by Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

### Man-of-the-Year admits he took \$2.4 million

OXFORD, Miss. (AP) — L. Smith III once earned a reputation for his business acumen. His avarice, however, has reaped him a long stint in prison. Mr. Smith admitted in court Tuesday that he defrauded his parents, his friends and a youth group of \$2.4 million. The 48-year-old financial planner pleaded guilty to five Federal Mail charges. Mr. Smith, the chamber of commerce's 1992 Man-of-the-Year, faces up to 2 years in prison and a \$1.25 million fine when he is sentenced.

"The victims are not because they trusted me, because they were willing to accept word," Mr. Smith said in a statement. Mr. Smith has agreed to repay \$2 million in restitution even though he is unemployed.

Mr. Smith, a former adviser and president of the Oxford Lafayette County Economic Development Foundation, was president of Oxford Bank and before opening an investment firm in 1985. Court records that by April 1986, he had borrowed \$2 million from his accounts to cover losses in commodities market. Mr. Smith estimated clients' losses as million over five years — are \$400,000 of which has been repaid.

### G7 spouses to visit garbage treatment plant

TOKYO (AFP) — In a bid with tradition, Japan has decided to organise a serious program for the spouses of the Group Seven (G7) heads who meet in week in Tokyo, including a visit to a garbage treatment plant. Although the Tokyo for the first time Wednesday to Friday, it is made public, their program has already been set. It does not include the slightest ceremony, nor any mention of Ikebana floral arrangement nor kimono presentation, not even a tiny glimpse of traditional Kabuki Theatre as has been the case during the previous G7 summit in Tokyo in 1986.

Only a brief visit is to be organised for Wednesday to the National Museum of Japan, a government official said Friday. The official said that Thursday, the first ladies, led by Hillary Clinton, wife of the United States president, will visit the Tokyo town hall, an imposing 48-storey building designed by architect Kenzo Tange. Then they will spend an hour at the N-guro Garbage Treatment Plant in southwest Tokyo, where they will be given a detailed briefing by officials. A visit to the Imperial Palace is also planned.

### Marcos' body to be returned by September — Imelda

MANILA (AFP) — The body of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos will be brought home to the Philippines for burial in September, his widow, Imelda Marcos, announced here Friday. The former first lady said her husband's body, kept in an air-conditioned crypt in Hawaii, would be buried in the Marcos home province of Ilocos Norte but gave no further details. She said the body supposed to have been flown back earlier but congress from Ilocos prevailed on her to have the burial date pushed so that they could prepare for the event. The former first lady in the announcement at a special anti-graft court where she was to post bail for some of the cases filed against her for allegedly looting state coffers during her husband's 20-year rule. Her court officials said there were summons for her, and the cases for which she wanted post bail were still being decided by the prosecution. They informed her lawyers they would not accept the bail she was post. Her appearance, in which coincided with her birthday, was marked by a gathering of about 40 Marcos supporters who sang "Happy Birthday," as she signed autographs.

## Politics could still block Iraq oil sale

By Jane Arraf  
Reuters

BAGHDAD — Iraq appears willing to drop its opposition to the use of the Turkish pipeline — a key U.N. condition for renewed oil sales — but diplomats said political problems could stall a quick settlement.

"If and when they reach agreement with the U.N., Iraq has indicated the Turkish pipeline will have priority," said a diplomat briefed recently by Iraqi officials.

Iraq had previously resisted using the Turkish pipeline, for which it paid about \$300 million a year in fees, and pressed for approval to export oil through its Al Bakr port.

Diplomats said, however, that Iraq, which has been holding technical talks with Turkey on the pipeline, would still demand that it be able to use its port. They said wider, political problems remained.

"The main stumbling block on negotiations concerns distribution of food in Iraq — the Iraqis still feel very strongly about this," said one diplomat. The U.N. wants to be involved in distribution of food in Iraq bought with oil cash.

"I think it would be imprudent to predict an immediate settlement," another said.

Iraqi Foreign Ministry official Riyadh Al Qaysi will lead the team to New York to reopen talks with the United Nations on selling limited amounts of oil.

Iraq, one of the world's biggest oil producers, has been barred from world markets since the U.N. imposed sweeping trade sanctions after Baghdad's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Until the U.N. embargo was imposed in 1990 Iraq exported oil via pipelines through Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Export capacity was about 1.6 million barrels (bpd) through each pipeline.

Iraq says Mina Al Bakr terminal at the head of the Gulf has a capacity of 1.2 to 1.6 million bpd and is fully operational now.

World oil prices have slumped on expectation that the talks in New York will lead to a breakthrough which would bring more oil onto a glutted market.

Iraq has so far maintained complete silence on prospects for the negotiations.

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The report condemns the right-left coalition for preferring to use military methods to solve its Kurdish problem instead of trying to resolve the situation by "peaceful and democratic means."

It also said torture had been widely used as a "method of interrogation" and cited the cases of 26 people who died while in detention.

The report maintained that the Turkish government "had missed an important chance to solve the problem of the Kurds," referring to the unilateral ceasefire — not recognised by Ankara — declared on March 20, 1993 by the head of the Kurdish armed rebellion, Abdullah Ocalan.

But it equally condemned the violence used by various militant groups including the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), especially the killings in Bingol in which 38 people, including 33 unarmed military personnel in civilian dress, died, which the report called "unacceptable."

## Hurd to visit China, Hong Kong

LONDON (AFP) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd is to visit Beijing for discussions over the future of Hong Kong, the Foreign Office announced here Friday.

Mr. Hurd will then stop over in Hong Kong next Thursday and Friday after the visit to the Chinese capital, returning to London on July 10, a statement from Hong Kong confirmed.

The Foreign Office statement said Mr. Hurd would meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in Beijing for talks about Hong Kong.

Mr. Hurd's visit will follow the G-7 summit in Tokyo and had apparently been suggested by Hong Kong governor Chris Patten, who is in Britain to update the government about the talks' progress.

The announcement came a day after a ministerial summit in London which agreed with Governor Patten that Sino-British talks on electoral reform in Hong Kong — which reverts to China in 1997 — continue for the time being.

News of Mr. Hurd's visit came as a surprise, as he had said outside 10 Downing Street following Thursday's convalescence that he had "nothing agreed or settled" about meeting his Chinese counterpart.

But he said in London Friday: "The timing of these negotiations is not unlimited. We want them to concentrate on what is essential."

The visit will take place two days after round seven of the talks between Chinese and British negotiators which will take place on Monday and Tuesday in Beijing.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Paris allows Iraqi interests wing

PARIS (AP) — Morocco's embassy in Paris will open an Iraqi affairs section, enabling France to conduct diplomatic contacts with Baghdad, the foreign ministry said. The arrangement will mirror Iraqi sections in place at Algeria's embassy in Washington and Jordan's embassy in London, used as diplomatic channels by the United States and Britain.

### Clinton gains after attack

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton had gained public esteem in the aftermath of his cruise missile attack on Iraq, but doubts remain about his stewardship of the U.S. economy, a new CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll said. The telephone poll of 1,008 adults was taken on Wednesday, four days after Mr. Clinton launched 13 cruise missiles at Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad. It put Mr. Clinton approval rating at 46 per cent, a seven-point gain from the 39 per cent he received in the same poll in mid-June. The opinion poll showed increasing public confidence in Mr. Clinton's handling of foreign affairs and national defence — clearly reflecting public support of his two-fronted posture on Iraq — but gave conflicting signals on his toughness and judgment.

### Home attacked in Germany

GUETERSLOH, Germany (AFP) — A 21-year-old German was arrested late Thursday after an apartment building housing 44 Turks was hit in a firebomb attack, police said. The man, who was found drunk near the site of the blaze, confessed to the assault, they said. He was not a member of any far-right organisation. The fire took hold in the building's cellar but was spotted in time by residents and quickly extinguished and there was little damage, they said.

### Britons in Iraqi jail well

LONDON (R) — A senior British diplomat has made two consular visits to three Britons in prison in Iraq and reported they are in good health, a Foreign Office spokesman said Friday. He said Stephen Howarth, head of the Foreign Office consular department, was allowed to visit the men Monday and Thursday in a prison near Baghdad. "Howarth" said they were healthy and in good heart," the spokesman said. Paul Wainwright, 42, Simon Dunn, 23, and 23-year-old Paul Ride are being held at Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad after being sentenced to between seven and 10 years for illegally entering the country on different occasions.

### Bundestag approves Somali mission

BONN (R) — Germany's parliament Friday approved a controversial government deployment of troops to Somalia, as demanded by the country's supreme court. The vote cleared the final hurdle for Germany's biggest deployment of ground forces abroad since World War II, a further step toward Chancellor Helmut Kohl's plans for the united country to play a wider military role in the world.

### Major rating hits record low

LONDON (AFP) — Less than a half of Tory supporters are satisfied with Prime Minister John Major's performance and he has become the least popular premier in British polling history, according to a poll published in the Times Friday. The MORI poll showed under a third of Conservatives are content with the way the government is running the country, while less than a fifth of the public is satisfied with the way Mr. Major is doing his job. The ratings are lower even than those of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at her most unpopular in 1981 and 1991, the paper said.

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